

No. 9

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# INFORMATION

FOR

# ARMY MEETINGS.

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In many places the fourth Sabbath evening of the month is devoted to a Union Monthly Concert of Prayer for the Army and Navy. The deepest interest has been excited by these meetings. It is humbly suggested to all who believe in the power of prayer, to form such meetings during the crisis of our nation's destiny. This tract is compiled with the view of affording information for these Army Meetings. Please circulate it.

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DECEMBER, 1864.



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# INFORMATION

FOR

## DECEMBER MEETINGS.

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### *The Gulf Department.*

THIS department and the whole line of seaboard from New York to Fort Vancouver, a range of 21,856 miles, with all our ships of war and foreign stations, is under the care of the New York Branch. The difficulty of extending the work of the Christian Commission along such an extent of territory, in such an unhealthy climate as the Gulf Coast, and with irregular means of transportation, could only have been surmounted by the energy, skill, and perseverance of the gentlemen who have taken it in charge. Holding the highest positions, civic, commercial, social, and literary, they have relinquished lucrative and honorable positions to endure the dangers of the sea and the hardships of the field, brave the miasma and yellow fever, and fag at the less romantic but no less necessary drudgery of the office, to the year's end.

The work of the New York Branch during the year 1863 was chiefly in the supply of preaching and reading. A gentleman of leisure and high literary and religious attainments, devoted himself to the work of selecting and compiling soldiers' reading-matter; and it is believed

that the books and tracts furnished to the libraries and reading-rooms of the hospitals and ships of war by the New York Committee cannot be excelled. Tons of magazines and of the metropolitan papers are continually in process of shipment; and correspondence with chaplains, surgeons, and commanders is daily increasing the demand.

The Christly department, of relief for suffering humanity has, during the present year, assumed increasing proportions. The prevention of disease, by the circulation of tens of thousands of Manuals of Soldier's Health, and the distribution of hogsheads of Blackberry Syrup, has been of even greater benefit to our soldiers than the tons of fruit and the cases of clothing distributed to the sick and wounded, and the exchanged prisoners. The outlay of the New York Committee is increasing accordingly, and we doubt not that the princely generosity of the Great Metropolis will be fully adequate to all proper demands for the relief of our brave defenders.

The Brooklyn Branch is an independent organization, and is forwarding delegates, publications, and hospital stores, at a rate worthy of the third city of the Union.

The following letters to Hon. J. V. C. Smith, the Field Agent of the New York Branch, illustrate the work of its delegates..

MORGANZIA, October 26, 1864.

Hon. J. V. C. Smith:

DEAR SIR—The three barrels of reading and hospital stores you last sent, came in good time and order. I have now a supply for some days to come. The men

are busy scouting, preparing for winter quarters—with rumors of changes. The sanitary supplies\* go well. The tent is doing good service. Besides affording facilities for distribution, it is used for a Bible-class on Sabbath morning, preaching in the evening, and prayer-meeting each evening in the week—all of which are well attended. I have often wished you could be present in our meetings, and mark the spirit of devotion and good sense manifested. The meeting last evening was of great sweetness and power. One testified that he found the grace of God at Morganzia; another had been an ignorant Roman Catholic, but was brought marvellously to the experience of the gospel. I design to write, some day, on "Religion in the Army," as it has fallen under my own observation.

Rev. Mr. Watson spent two weeks with me; and by his ability and readiness to work, made a decidedly favorable impression, and left, much to the regret of all. I doubt not he will do excellent service at Baton Rouge. I hear also good reports from Rev. Mr. Whittier. Such men are an acquisition to the Commission. Unless we have great military changes, I shall need about the usual supply. I have the commencement of a good Circulating Library; please send me all the books you can spare, without doing injustice to others. There are German books in your reading-room; please send some of them. I do not get an adequate supply of German reading. Some regiments are largely composed of Germans—great readers.

The colored soldiers are anxious to learn, and must

\* The fruits, syrups, &c., sent by the Christian Commission.

have books adapted to their capacity. Writing material is in great demand. I would respectfully recommend, if you have none on hand, to buy some. It is hard for a soldier, who has not been paid for six months, not to be able to write his mother a letter, for want of a sheet of paper and envelopes. Many such are here.

In a word, hardly anything comes amiss, in an army like this.

Grateful for the promptness with which you have always sent supplies, I have the honor to be

Your obedient servant,

H. C. DUNHAM.

NEW ORLEANS, Oct. 31, 1864.

Dr. J. V. C. Smith, Agent,  
U. S. Christian Commission:

SIR—I have the honor to report my work for the months of September and October, as follows: During September the Sabbath services were kept up at the Military Prison, Naval Hospital, Wood's Press, and Soldier's Home, with occasional services on shipboard and at camps. Packages of reading were distributed at other prisons and depot of troops. Sixteen public religious services were held. The Prisoners' Commission has occupied a large part of my time. Many cases of interest come before us. Letters enclosed indicate the kind of work done.

The interest at the Soldier's Home and in our Reading-room has decreased, because of the small force of troops here, and greater strictness in keeping them in quarters. Only eighty-three visitors to the rooms are recorded; but quite a number of calls for books—thirty taken out.



I have received ninety letters, and written twenty-seven. During the month of October I was enabled to devote more time to the distribution of reading matter, as the Prisoners' Commission closed its labors, and turned over its business to the Provost Marshal General, on the 15th. The same Sabbath various labors were performed, the camps were supplied, and considerable time occupied in attending to business of the Depository.

#### Revival.

In several camps, religious meetings have been held. The Second Connecticut Battery is enjoying quite a revival. Several soldiers have recently professed conversion, at the Baptist church. A number of young soldiers have started there for heaven; and the prayer-meetings are growing in interest.

Another lot of our exchanged prisoners came in a few days ago from Tyler, Texas. It was pleasant to go among them, and give papers, Testaments, letter-paper, &c. Many of them were enfeebled by confinement and poor fare, and all were happy in being again under the old flag.

#### The Buried Flag.

This reminds me of a flag I saw in their camp. It was captured with them, but concealed by burial in the earth, and brought away in the lining of an officer's coat. This piece of bunting is highly valued by the brave men of the Forty-eighth Ohio.

#### Intercession.

During the month I was able to do some kindness at one time to the soldiers in jail, most of whom had, for a

disturbance, been shut up for ten days and nights within their cells. The trouble was caused by their being kept, on two occasions, for nearly twenty-four hours, without food. The Provost Marshal granted my request for their release from close confinement. At another time, on my representations, the Provost Marshal General released from close confinement some sixty prisoners, allowing them the air and light needful for health, and consistent with safety. I was also granted the pardon of several poor fellows, who appeared worthy of clemency—one a boy, sentenced to ten years' imprisonment, and who was so ill as not to be expected to live as many days, when released.

#### Welcome Always.

I have given out 69 packages of reading, being 7533 publications—of which number there were 205 Hymns, 186 Testaments, and 8 Bibles. My labors in the Prison, the Hospital, the Home, and camps, are full of encouragement. They are well received always; and in the course of a month, because of the shifting of troops, and changing of the men in prison and hospitals, many thousands are addressed—often for the first or last time—and supplied with something good to read. There is every reason to believe that God's rich blessing attends this work.

*October.*—Fifty-five visitors to Reading-room; twenty books taken; six names to Temperance pledge.

Very respectfully,

R. K. DIOSKY, *Delegate.*



## Army of the Shenandoah.

### The Happiest Hours of Life.

This work, of meeting trains and succoring wounded at Martinsburg, we have found hard for the body, being obliged, as we often have been, to continue it far into the night. At the same time we can truly say, it is a blessed work, truly Christ-like. And you often find where least you expect it, that you have been ministering to Christ in the person of his humble followers. "Is the Heavenly Friend near you to support and comfort you?" I asked a poor suffering man, who had just been brought into the church, with his leg amputated, and laid upon a hard bed of straw. "O, yes," said he, "he is with me, he is precious to me. He has been for many years, but never has he seemed so precious and so near as since I was wounded. All day and all night I lay upon the field, after I was struck and my leg fractured, but, strange as it may seem, they were the happiest hours of my life, made so by the Saviour's presence." "What shall I write to your family?" "Tell my dear wife, I am happy, I am just where I would be, because I am just where God, in his providence, has brought me. I am willing to die or live, just as will best promote his glory." He was soon called to glorify God in his death.

### No Humbug.

We have not only had repeated opportunities of witnessing such triumphs of the power of faith and grace, but we have also witnessed the power of Christian kindness upon strong, hard men, and even upon Rebels. As we have ministered to their temporal wants, and ad-

dressed to them words of kindness, we have often seen tears start from eyes unaccustomed to weep, and have received the hearty "God bless you," "God bless the Christian Commission." "This is what I call living Christianity." "This is the religion for me." "I can't stand this," said a rough, hard-looking soldier, who was badly wounded in the foot, but able to hobble along on crutches, "I can't stand this, boys, it overcomes me, I give in," and, as he spoke and hobbled toward us, his whole frame shook with inward emotion, and the big tears fell from his sunburnt face, which he struggled in vain to keep back and hide from his comrades, "you know," he continued, "I am no coward, I can face the enemy, and not wink, but this kindness kills me, it breaks me all to pieces. I have heard all about these men, delegates of the Christian Commission; my wife has written me about them, and the society which sends them forth, and the work they do, and do it all for nothing, and find themselves. I tell you, boys, this is no humbug. It is a big thing. It is the gospel for body and soul, just what we all need;" and so he went on with a truly eloquent speech, of some minutes, and closed by wishing a thousand blessings upon us and the Christian Commission.

P. B. THAYER, *Garland, Me.*

#### The Revival.

CAMP PAROLE, ANNAPOLIS, Md.

October 20, 1864.

G. S. Griffith, Esq., Chairman Maryland Com. Christ'n Com'n.

DEAR BROTHER—The good work of God has not yet ceased, though about one hundred and fifty, if not nearly

two hundred persons have been converted and recovered from backsliding—thirty-five of them having been baptized, nearly one-half of them by immersion—one hundred and sixty-five have joined our Soldiers' Christian Association since September 6th, and Christians, converts, and reclaimed, have for the most part grown wonderfully in grace, holy joy, and usefulness. The latter, according to David in Psalm li. 12th and 13th, "Return unto me the joy of thy salvation, and uphold me with thy free spirit; then will I teach transgressors thy way, and sinners shall be converted unto thee."

O how these Christian soldiers have prayed and wrought for Christ; I hardly ever witnessed more fervent, effectual prayers—they availed much with God. It would sometimes seem almost as if heaven would be taken by violence. Some of them have been very faithful in personal effort with sinners and backsliders, and oh, how many of the latter there are in the army. Older Christians and young converts have been successful in bringing out the impenitent and wandering to our evening meetings. It would do your heart good now, more than when you and Dr. Schaff, of New York, were here the 6th inst., to hear the Christians reclaimed and converts pray and talk in our meetings.

A growth in grace, holy joy and power with God is manifest to all those who have been there for weeks. The remark was made the other day that converts and recovered sinners were scarcely ever known to have stood better and to have ripened in experience more rapidly and extensively than those of this soldiers' camp. Last evening quite a number spoke, in the hearing

of Rev. Mr. Gilbert, General Agent of the American Bible Society, and of the Christian Commission, who was surprised and delighted with what he saw and heard. This evening some seventy-five persons arose to manifest their purpose to pray and labor yet more than they have done hitherto, for the continuance and greater power of this work of God, as they believe God has no thought of stopping it, so they have no idea of being weary in this well-doing. O how I do love these brethren of Jesus and rejoice in my labors here. I am in my element. Bless the Lord that I was sent here. Thanks to you for favoring me with this position. Some few incidents may interest you. At a meeting a young man arose and said, "That only two hours before he came to the meeting he used profane language; convicted in this meeting, he gave himself up to God, and seemed to have the peace of pardon." Others said, "that their sins were forgiven at the meeting mentioned." Another soldier said at a meeting: "Last night, after all were in bed and still, I, burdened for sinners, knelt down alone to pray for them—my soul went up in agonizing prayer to God. A sinner came along hearing cries as of those in distress, and first with an oath, asked the cause of a man lying down there. He soon learned. I talked with him about his soul—he dropped on his knees by my side, and with tears, begged me to pray for him, and promised to attend to the salvation of his soul." This beloved brother, Vice-President of the Soldiers' Christian Association, now gone from us, and in a hospital in Baltimore, was an efficient worker, as well as a man of prevalence in prayer; we are sorry to lose such. O how they do regret to

leave Camp Parole. Said a converted backslider, "I do regret to leave this camp and these meetings. Here I was reclaimed. I left home a wicked man, though in early life for three years in the enjoyment of religion, as I then supposed. I have a pious praying wife, and long to see her, and make her glad by the change God has wrought in me; but I am sorry to leave these meetings, and to leave you, Mr. Colton. I remember the pleasant look with which you first accosted me in my quarters. I remember the instructions since received; I am perfectly happy in God now. O how much to be thankful for. How can I leave?" This and more he said, as he took his leave the other night, with tears. He spoke both publicly and to me at the close of the meeting. O, Mr. Griffith, my heart is enlarged; when shall I stop? I have many more like records in my note-book. Enough now; more another time.

Yours in the Lord

ERASTUS COLTON,  
Agent U. S. Christian Commission, Camp Parole.

## Army of the Potomac.

### The Revival at Camp Distribution.

At this Camp the preaching the blessed Gospel has had, and is having, a gloriously telling effect upon the hearts of the soldiers. I have seen scores, and on one occasion nearly a hundred, rise at once, requesting an interest in the prayers of God's people. Nearly every day souls were born into the kingdom of Jesus. I have seen from fifteen to twenty at a time bowing at our altars and crying for mercy. Nor were they feeble and inaudible cries, but like the publican, "God be merciful to me a sinner," "Lord save me;" thus evincing a degree of earnestness which led us to believe that the work was not superficial, but one that went to the depths of the soul. And what was still more convincing in this regard, I have heard them, after having found the Saviour, testify from their own experience that Christ *had* power on earth to forgive sin.

### A Protracted Meeting.

At an experience meeting, a soldier in speaking of the protracted efforts the Commission was putting forth for the salvation of those in arms said, "This is the longest protracted meeting I ever attended in my life. I have been in this camp ten weeks, and I have not missed a single meeting, I wish it would continue always, and it would be my blessed privilege to go from these meetings to a glorious meeting in heaven." Another soldier, one to whom I had the privilege of presenting the truth of



God, and of inviting him to accept of salvation in Jesus Christ while a sinner, said: "One week ago I came into this camp a wild, wicked, hardened sinner. I came into the meeting on Sunday evening, and I was invited forward for prayer, I did not heed the invitation. The next evening I went again, and was again invited, I accepted the invitation, prostrated myself at the altar, and there God for Christ sake forgave me my sins."

Your delegate, in submitting the above statistical statement of his work while in the service of your Commission, has to add his testimony to that delivered by hundreds of others, to the great field for the effecting of temporal and spiritual benefit to the soldier open to the Christian Commission, and to the good which, under God's blessing, its agents have been enabled to achieve. Very noticeable, too, is the welcome given in every tent to the delegate, the respectful and thankful attention with which his ministrations—whether of counsel, warning or reproof—are received; the gratitude evoked by even the smallest office of kindness, and the entire confidence reposed in every one who wears the Commission's badge.

#### **Ears to Hear.**

I think I may say that, during a ministry of fourteen years, I have never labored where there was so earnest attention to spiritual truth, and so seemingly earnest a desire to profit by it, as in that City Point hospital.

REV. J. GORDON CARNAHAN.

#### **The Power of the Spirit of God.**

While at Camp Distribution my work was devoted wholly to the welfare of the soul. Our meetings there

were attended with great interest. Our chapel, capable of seating about one thousand men, was often filled to the utmost of its capacity. The Spirit of God was present with us, and at the close of the sermon sometimes as many as fifty would rise for prayers. We usually followed the preaching service with a prayer-meeting, inviting the inquiring ones to come forward for religious conversation and prayer. Not unfrequently twenty-five of these brave men would come forward, and in tears acknowledge their sinfulness, while they sought to rest themselves on the mercy of Christ. The power of the Almighty was felt. The gracious Spirit was doing His work.

#### **The Soldiers Praying for us.**

Our prayer-meetings were among the most interesting of my life. Such earnestness, and such devotedness, and such strong faith, we seldom see manifested at home. I have never heard such prayers offered for loved ones and for churches at home as these soldiers offer. A husband prays for an absent wife and children; a young lad prays in such child-like faith and confidence for a mother and sisters at home, that you almost feel that you yourself have never prayed at all. These are earnest men.

#### **Prayer with a Soul in it.**

They have seen suffering and endured hardship, and mellowed down by the severities of war they speak what they feel. Their language has a soul in it, and it finds a soul in the hearer, unless he has encased it in a cage of steel.

### Love to the Brethren.

The apostle says, "by this shall ye know that ye have passed from death unto life, because ye love the brethren," and I have never seen a livelier test of this than a colored soldier gave at the close of one of our evening meetings. There was a simplicity in his expression which touched all our hearts, and he closed his remarks by saying, in a most impressive manner, "I love my Saviour, I love the Church of Christ, I love the world, I love everybody, I love them that don't love me." And he sat down. I felt that that poor son of Africa had reached the climax in Christian experience. Like the martyred Stephen, and his Saviour before him, he loved his enemies, and he could pray for his masters who had despitefully used him.

### Swift to Hear.

One of the most gratifying features of the army is the readiness with which they receive religious instruction. The demand for Christian laborers is vastly greater than the supply. The Macedonian cry from the adjacent forts reached our ears, "Come over and help us." And though some of our delegates preached as many as four times on the Sabbath, still we could not satisfy the demand.

### Rich Experience for Ministers.

No minister can have a richer experience than the army affords, and none probably can find a field of greater usefulness. The church which sends out its pastor will receive a blessing for it, and if he carries a warm heart, filled with the Spirit of Christ, he may be

the means of a rejoicing in camp which shall cause joy in heaven.

M. L. SEVERANCE,  
Boscawen, N. H.

### The Revival in the 18th Corps.

Another feature, and to my mind the most important one in results, is the public means of grace. Last Sunday night, upward of fifteen men arose and signified their desire to flee the wrath to come, and be saved from their sins. We held one of the most interesting prayer-meetings last Saturday evening that I ever attended. There was a sweet and heavenly influence resting down upon the assembly, and we could say with Peter, "Lord, it is good for us to be here."

### Report of M. S. Wells, Delegate

Many have been converted in the 18th Army Corps, of late, and are going forth rejoicing in the Lord. And now as the 10th Army Corps has taken the place of the 18th, the same blessed influences continue, and we shall look for the continuation of the same blessed results.

Our distribution of reading matter among the sick wards has a salutary benefit. Men read, and forget their aches and pains, and thus avoid low-spiritedness—they are less discontented. In short, it is a decided sanitary department, for which we have a very comfortable supply as we need them.

I am, Sir, very happy and contented in my work, and hope to render myself both useful to the soldier and the Commission that has committed such a trust to my hands.

But I must close. There is a very healthy state of things in the various departments of the Commission here, and we expect to find the records at last show a glorious harvest of souls for the Redeemer. May the blessing of our Lord Jesus Christ be upon the United States Christian Commission is my humble prayer.

Respectfully yours,

M. S. WELLS.

#### For Ministers.

I have nothing to report which differs essentially from the many reports which I have read of Delegates of the Christian Commission. The work exceeded in power to interest my whole spiritual nature, any experience of my life. My work commenced the day before I received my commission, at Boston, while on the cars to and from the city, and did not cease until I delivered a soldier boy to his mother, in my town, five minutes before reaching my home. He is on furlough.

The *fulness* of the work is truly wonderful. On every hand, in every hour of the day, travelling or sitting, there is abundant opportunity to bless soldiers; and the fulness of the blessing flows back into one's own heart.

My people were greatly benefitted by my absence; and if they had not been, I think I have been enough better man for going, to make it policy for them to send me again.

Truly yours,

E. DOUGLASS,

Bridgewater, Mass.

## Special Diet Kitchen Bill of Fare.

Soup—Mutton,	Pudding—Bread,
Beef,	Rice,
Chicken,	Tapioca,
Fish—Cod,	Corn Starch,
Meats,	Farina,
Chickens,	Blanc Mange,
Baked Apples,	Custard—Boiled,
Potatoes—Roast,	Baked,
Bread and Butter,	Fruits,
Corn Bread,	Jellies,
Biscuit,	Jams,
Toast—Dry,	Preserves,
Butter,	Tea,
Milk,	Cocoa,
Eggs—Boiled,	Gruel,
Poached,	Tomatoes.

## Blackberry Cordial.-

Again as I passed the rounds with the blackberry cordial and heard such expressions as these: "Not any more, Chaplain, your medicine has cured my diarrhœa, I should never have got well without it. God bless the Christian Commission." "O Chaplain, give me some of that medicine, I have heard of it at the front as good for me, by those who have been cured by it," and then the hearty "thank you." I am fully persuaded that this branch of the work is of great value to the men. The cordial is a valuable donation to the stores of the Com-



mission especially during the summer and fall; and receives the strongest commendation from the Surgeon in charge of our hospital and his assistants.

WM. M. ROBINSON.

### · A Peach.

ANDOVER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY.

I never dreamed that so much good could be accomplished by such simple means. A basket of peaches would give joy to a hundred wounded men. I shall never forget the case of William C——, a Pennsylvania soldier, who had undergone amputation of the right thigh, and was suffering the utmost intensity of human anguish. He was sinking very rapidly, and had taken no nourishment for several days. When I first saw him, he seemed utterly hopeless of recovery. His wife had been summoned from home; but it was feared that he would die before it was possible for her to reach him. I took a nice peach from my basket; he brightened at the sight of it. I pared it for him, and put it in his mouth, bit by bit; and the look of gratitude which he gave me was ample reward for the whole six weeks' service. Next morning I went to his bedside, and said—"What can I do for you this morning?" With a smile he whispered, "Have you got another peach for me?" And so I repeated the operation of the previous morning. For a whole week he lingered along, with no other nourishment than his morning peach, and the thought that there was some one who cared for him. Meanwhile his wife arrived, and cheered his last hours with words of Christian hope. He fell asleep in Jesus.

"You've Touched my Heart."

Never was such a field presented for Christian labor. All seemed willing, and many anxious, to converse on religious subjects. I did not meet with a single rebuff during the whole term of my service. Often the mere mention of the subject of personal religion would cause deep emotion.

I remember particularly a veteran soldier, whose three years had nearly expired, and who had been terribly wounded in the right knee. He was a Scotchman, and had been a wild and reckless young man. After a cheerful chat of ten or fifteen minutes, I asked him—"Are you a Christian man?" He made no reply at first, but a tear started in each eye, and he was soon weeping and sobbing like a child, covering his face with his hands. At length he said, punctuating his sentences with sobs—"I've been a soldier almost three years, and have never shed a tear before, in all my hardships and sufferings. You might cut me to pieces with knives, and not draw a tear; but you've touched my heart, and I can't help it."

He made me a promise never to drink another drop of liquor, and became from that day a seeker after Jesus.

Yours, respectfully,

FRANK H. SNOW.

Rev. W. E. Boardman.

Colored Schools.

I also held an evening school among the colored young men, teamsters in the Commissary Department. I found great anxiety to learn to read almost universal among

them. If an evening school on a large scale could be opened among them, great good could be accomplished, as there are probably between two and three thousand colored persons at or near City Point.

S. S. SUTTON,  
Brighton, Michigan.

### The Dying Soldier's Prayer.

The prayers of David, the son of Jesse, were ended with the petition, "Let the whole earth be filled with his glory." The soldiers of David's army are not all dead yet. One went home last week, uttering a similar prayer.

"Corporal Henry C. Smith died at Carver Hospital, July 20, 1864. He belonged to the 8th Michigan Regiment. He had his left arm amputated above the elbow, and was not naturally of the firmest health. He always greeted me with a smile, and spoke earnestly and heartily on religion; said he was willing God's will should be done in him. A few hours before his death he sent for Chaplain Parkes to come and pray with him. Mr. Parkes conversed with him, and then prayed with him. Then Smith prayed. After offering a petition to God for his own welfare, he prayed for President Lincoln, for the country, and that the cause of crushing the rebellion might be advanced and benefitted by his death."

Yours, &c.

SAMUEL G. HALEY,  
East Andover, N. H.

## Christian Commission in Arkansas.

### Daily Prayer-Meeting.

The rooms of the Christian Commission were opened in Little Rock Arkansas, on the first of February, 1864. A pleasant and commodious place having been procured in a conspicuous part of the city, we unfurled the "banner," and commenced sounding the "Gospel Trumpet." For spiritual growth and Divine guidance in our mission of love, a daily prayer-meeting was immediately appointed as a proper and successful means. And here let me remark, that wherever the Commission has been established, the first act was to dedicate the spot to Almighty God, and earnestly seek his favour and direction. To accomplish proper and desirable results we must use proper and appointed means.

### Rooms.

The building we have obtained is a large two-story dwelling-house, situated on the south-west corner of Main and Mulberry streets, which had just been leased to the Western Sanitary Commission, but, through the kindness of its agent, G. W. Wyeth, we were made welcome to one-half of it, and thus united under the same roof the two "Sisters of Charity."

The locality is the best in the city for our business. But the condition of the rooms previous to being occupied by the Commission, was anything but inviting; resembling indeed a secesh boarding-house more than a dwelling for "white folks." But choosing appropriate tools, and "taking off the coat and rolling up the sleeves,"

we began to seek out the boundary lines of the floor, and then to make visible and satisfactory explorations of the walls.

Having obtained some idea of the dimensions of the rooms, we erected two large book-eases for Testaments, "soldiers' books," hymn-books, tracts, &c.; obtained another large black-walnut one for a library, and arranged suitable shelves for religious papers, and literary magazines of miscellaneous reading. Ample accommodations were also made for writing, and two long file-desks put up for the leading secular and religious newspapers.

But the object of the Christian Commission and its actual workings in other Departments, being almost entirely unknown to the greater portion of the army of this Department, it required much perseverance as well as patience, to get established and to procure the respect and encouragement of those with whom we have to do. But with the help of the "Good Master," whose cause it is, we at first secured the favor of the commanding General, and a lively and growing interest soon became manifest. At first, soldiers would come in, rather hesitatingly, to inspect and to inquire the prices of things, and saying among themselves "that they allowed" it to be a sutler's shop or some "shebang" following the army to keep "greenbacks from moulding." But a knowledge of the Commission at once commanded respect, and the growing interest may be seen by the following report.

#### Work.

Average number that visited the rooms, daily, for the following five months: February, twenty; March, forty-

five; April, ninety; May, one hundred and seventy-five; June, one hundred and forty. Average number that attended the daily prayer-meeting: February, seven; March, twelve; April, eighteen; May, fifty; June, forty-five. Reading matter distributed at this and the other military posts, viz: Fort Smith, Pine Bluff, and Duvall's Bluff, during the first five months: Soldiers' books, 6,786; Testaments, 4,581; hymn-books, 2,713; magazines, 662; library-books, 440; papers, 69,771; pages of tracts, 229,528, the sum total distributed in June, being twelve times that of February. And, besides, we have distributed a large number of Charts, Almanacs, Silent Comforters, Green Pastures, Words of Life, Words for the Heart, &c., to hospitals, and Spelling-books, Bible-readers, copy-books, &c., to colored regiments. We have also issued to hospitals, shirts, sheets, pillow-slips, drawers, handkerchiefs and towels, and have put into the hands of the soldiers, when needy, many luxuries, consisting of dried, pickled and canned fruits, condensed beef, and milk, wines, cordials, jellies, jams, &c., &c. We have, during the time, held one hundred and eighty religious meetings, besides many short services at hospitals, and on funeral occasions; we have furnished stationery for the hospitals, and very many times have set down by the bedside of the sick and wounded, written out their requests and sent them to their dear ones at home; talked with them of Jesus, and, if dying, commended them to Him in prayer, and forwarded the sad news to their families, all of which has brought many a smile as well as tear, and many an earnest "God bless you, and them that sent you."



**Asleep in Jesus.**

Oh, could you have stood with me, the other morning, by the bedside of that dying soldier, who had sent for me to spend with him his last earthly moments, and heard him say, looking up so affectionately, "O, my brother, will you sing to me that hymn that you sung the other day to my dying comrade, beginning

"Asleep in Jesus, blessed sleep!

From which none ever wake to weep'?"

and then heard those grateful expressions, and seen that dying smile, you would have gone home saying, let us double our diligence. And he is but one of the many who have been comforted and made to rejoice through your Christian sympathy and benevolence. Blessed cause. Let it not suffer at home, and we who are in the field will faithfully watch and labor.

C. C. THAYER, Local Agent.

**The Soldier's Motive.**

The character of our soldiers is hardly appreciated by our citizens. Ambition, the desire of glory, the restlessness of youth, revenge for injuries received from the barbarous slave powers and their minions, are believed to contribute their share towards the armies of our heroes, no less than a pure, patriotic love of country.

The following letter will dispel this illusion. We lately heard it read at the meeting of the New York Central Branch of the United States Christian Commission, in the presence of the writer's townsmen, in Utica. Every eye was moistened. It was written the day before

the writer received his mortal wound. He now sleeps in Jesus.

FORT BAKER, October 20, 1864.

DEAR LOTTIE—I found a small white envelope among the others that you put into my box before I came away from home, and I knew that Lottie put it there, because she wanted me to write to her. Well, it always does us good to please those that love us; and I am glad to think that my little girl would be pleased to have me write to her. It is a pleasant task for me; and the thought of good, loving children at home, who think of me every day—who for my sake are trying to be good to their mother, and make her happy, is a source of comfort, encouragement, and of consolation, that I cannot describe with my pen, nor tell with my tongue. How far this thought goes, or how much it contributes to reconcile me to the separation that, for their sakes, I have voluntarily endured, you can never realize until like circumstances call forth like feelings; and I earnestly pray that this may never be. I know that you do not now realize that I am here because I love you, and that you do not appreciate the necessity of my being here. But by-and-by, when you grow up, you will understand things better; and when you read in history, of this war, and of its causes and objects, you will be glad that your father left home when you were a little girl, and went forth to contend for the right. You will love me all the more then, and so will all the rest of my children. This is the thought that encourages and consoles me; and then, beside this, the consciousness of none other than good and pure motives—and, above all, the consolation, from

day to day, that religion affords me—all contribute to make me happy, even while the constant longing, lingering anxiety about my homē and family, keeps them every moment in my thoughts.

Try and be good, Lottie, if you love me, and want to do what you can to make me happy. Be good to your mother and grandmother, and brothers and sisters. Try to be good to the Lord, and then you will be happy yourself, and everybody will love you; and if I should never see you again on earth, we shall meet in heaven. I pray for you many times every day, and I want you to pray for yourself and me. Try to learn in your books; go to school, and Sunday-school always, when you can. Save this letter until you get old. Tell Harry I will write to him before long; and Freddy, that I mean to send him some pretty stones I have picked up for him. Kiss all the family for me, from grandma to the baby, and love them all. God bless you.

FATHER.

#### Writing Home.

The gratitude of surviving relatives for the letters and ministrations of the delegates, cannot easily be expressed. From a pile of letters of acknowledgments before us, we take, almost at random, the two following, as illustrations.

ROLLING PRAIRIE, Laporte Co.,

Indiana, Dec. 2d, 1864.

George H. Stuart.

MY DEAR BROTHER—I had charge of the General Field Hospital, Chattanooga, Tennessee. I was sent for in haste to visit a noble young man in Ward D. As

soon as he saw me, he said, "Chaplain, I am going to die, and be lost, unless something is done for me soon," and asked me to talk and pray with him. After the services with him were over, I exhorted the inhabitants of the tent to prepare for the solemn change, before reason was gone. He asked me to return in two hours. I did so; but, O what a change. He met me with a smile. Said he, "Chaplain, it's all right now. I am the Lord's, and he is mine. I am now prepared to go whenever it is the Lord's will; but pray again, and sing for me." I did so, with different feelings than before, and sung

"Sweet rivers of redeeming love  
Lie just before my eyes,  
Had I the pinions of a dove,  
I'd to those rivers rise." &c.

He praised God, though nearly gone. He passed off triumphantly, in about one hour and a half more.

Very truly yours,

JOHN E. NEWHOUSE.

IPSWICH, Mass., July 8, 1864.

Mr. John E. Newhouse,

DEAR SIR—We return to you our sincere thanks for the letter we received from you this morning.

It gives us great comfort to know that the Lord Jesus was with our son during his last hours; that He stood by him, and led him gently through the valley of the shadow of death. A comfort to us, also, while we are mourning our loss so bitterly, that we may meet him on the other side.

For his sake we thank you for speaking with him, for

singing with him; it must have done him so much good. Yes, he was a good boy. We all know it. No mother ever had a son more faithful than he—but this is for our country. God grant we may soon have peace, crowned with victory, which will put an end to these sad tidings that every new day now brings to us.

Yours very respectfully.

NEW GLARCY, June 19, 1864.

Rev. John T. Baird.

DEAR SIR:—It is with the greatest pleasure I acknowledge the receipt of a letter penned by you, for my poor weak and wounded son, but, to express my thanks and gratitude to you for so much kindness, will be impossible. I will, together with my wife, bear in mind to our graves, your angel act towards my boy, and for the few words of consolation administered to myself. I pray God will reward you for so much kindness, and if your family should in the providence of God need an act of humanity, it may be exuberantly bestowed.

I have two sons in the army. Leonard is the oldest, Charles belongs to the 5th Wisconsin Battery. I suppose my poor wounded boy has told you all about that, it will therefore, be needless for me to repeat. I received a letter from him the same day I heard from Leonard through you, and thank God he came out without being hurt. At the time of his penning that letter, he knew nothing of his brother being wounded; he says in his letter, "I seen the 22d Regiment, but did not see Leonard." I presume he knows it, by this time.

I have two good sons, and thank God for the gift. But I read that the Eternal God had an only Son, “a well-beloved Son,” whom he delivered up to suffer the greatest indignity possible, and then die the ignominious death of the cross. Jesus’ friends all deserted him. Not so with my son, God was with him and sent friends to administer to his wants.” Surely these are mercies and should call forth our humble thanks. We repeat the words of the Son of God, and say with our whole heart “Thy will be done,” having the promise of God, that all things will work out for good, to them that love Him, and keep his commandments.

I have faith to believe in all God’s promises. I also believe that a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, that the hairs of our head are all numbered, that nothing can escape God’s notice. All my hope is in Him concerning this war, and that we will be victorious at last. My unseen, I cannot say unknown, friend, you have been the good Samaritan to my poor boy in his time of need. What has been done for him has been done to me. But I am afraid I am tedious, I could not help it, you will forgive. God’s blessing rest upon you and yours, while I remain

Very respectfully yours.

#### **The Army a Fast Place.**

There is a large class of the soldiers who have been professors of religion at home, but have lost the lustre of their hope, with the loss of home privileges. Many and many a time I have heard the remark—“I had a hope, but the army is a poor place to brighten it.” And

among these men is one of the greatest works of the Commission. It carries personal sympathy to each Christian, and thus brings Christians together in sympathy among themselves. Soldiers rarely sympathize together in their religious feelings, without some one to take the lead; and this is just what the Christian Commission does. And this is the reason why laborers here find more encouragement than at home. Their presence and influence satisfies a want that nothing else reaches; and, too, the progress of Christians is more manifest than at home, where these outside influences are less rare. The army is a *fast* place. Soldiers morally travel the upward road, or the downward road—whichever they may have chosen—much faster than their friends at home. And as vice is spontaneous, while virtue needs culture, the work of the Christian Commission cannot be too widely spread, or too closely followed up. This is the testimony of officers, high and low, who, without exception, treated us with marked respect.

EDWARD P. WILD,  
(Of Bangor Seminary) Brookfield, Vt.

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## Army of the Shenandoah.

### The Wounded.

Most of the time of my service acted as agent for the Commission, at Martinsburg, W. Va. Labored among the sick and wounded, as they were brought in from the front. They usually arrived there in the evening, after riding all day over the rough pike, in the common army wagons. We met them at the wagons, assisted in getting



them into the churches used as hospitals, and then supplied them with hot tea or coffee, and food; assisted in dressing their wounds, &c.

As they were kept here but for a short time, until they could be put upon the cars to be sent further east, no good accommodations had been prepared for them—not even arrangements to supply them promptly with rations—and a delegate could feel, as he labored, that he was really doing something to save suffering.

Many of them told us that they thought they could not have lived without our attention. We also assisted in fixing them comfortably on the cars, and either furnishing them with food, or seeing that the Government officers did so. Never have I seen such immediate results from my efforts to do good,

## Brooklyn and Long Island.

The Brooklyn and Long Island Christian Commission was organized in March, 1864. Our object is to interest all the Christian Churches and people of Brooklyn and Long Island in the most efficient coöperation practicable, with the United States Christian Commission and other Christian organizations, in supplying religious teachers and helpers, and religious and moral training to the army and navy, and to any others whom the events of the war may commit to our ministry.

### Six Months' Work.

Our first six months' work includes the sending to the front over a hundred delegates, who have carried con-

solation and instruction to thousands in the camp. They have taken up the wounded from the battle-field—dressed their wounds, given them drink and nourishment—spoken to them words of cheer, prayed with them, and directed them to the cross of Christ. They have sat down on the ground, and taken from their dying lips their last messages to transmit to their homes—have closed their eyes, and committed them, with prayers, to their last resting-place. No father or brother could have done more for them. The delegates have also held meetings for prayer and exhortation; and hundreds, we have reason to think, have been converted. The report of the good done can never be made out until the Judgment-day. Thousands of books, including Bibles, Testaments, and other valuable religious works, have been distributed. They have been most gratefully received, and, we doubt not, profitably perused.

#### **Navy Work.**

Having in charge the Brooklyn Navy Yard, where most of our Government Ships come and go—thus affording a vast field for Christian labor—we have distributed a large amount of reading matter, including volumes of great interest, to from thirty to fifty thousand seamen and officers.

#### **Our Constituency and Co-workers.**

Every church should bear a part in this blessed work. Their prayers and contributions are needed. Every Sunday-school also might do the same. Already many of them have entered upon the work. In the success of this great struggle, who are so much interested as our

children and youth? Let them show their interest in efforts to comfort and bless those who are sacrificing their lives to preserve to them the noblest inheritance of Earth.

### Our Wants.

*We need Delegates.* Men of the right stamp; the working men of our churches; full of zeal; with tact and good common sense; ready to embark for six weeks, or more, in this most blessed but self denying work. They should come recommended by their pastors.

*We need Funds:* not only to use directly in our work, but to help forward the great cause, which the Central Commission at Philadelphia are prosecuting. Think of half a million of men in our Army and Navy, to be supplied with Christian influences! How large an outlay it must require!

*We need Comfort-Bags and Housewives.* These, in one sense, are a means of grace. They open the way to the heart's sympathies, and are a blessed preface to a higher ministration.

*We need books:* Religious books, of course; but others also: all kinds that are instructive, entertaining, and useful; such as History, Biography, Travels, and Tales of good moral tendency; in fact, just such kind of books as intelligent families are accustomed to place in their libraries. Illustrated papers and magazines, both weekly and monthly, are very much needed.

*We need the prayers of Christians.* In vain we labor to build the house, except God build it. That he will, in answer to prayer, we have no doubt. And hence we

ask the prayers of the good, that "our labor may not be in vain in the Lord."

## The Cincinnati Branch.

### Business of the Year.

At a meeting of the Cincinnati Branch of the U. S. Christian Commission, held on Tuesday evening at the residence of A. E. Chamberlain, Esq., Chairman, a report was presented showing the business of the last year, of which the following is a summary:

Cash received . . . . .	\$48,044 23
Total expenditures . . . . .	42,673 62
Stores donated and purchased . . . . .	170,000 00

### SOLDIERS' READING.

Copies of Scriptures distributed . . . . .	56,697
Soldiers' hymn-books . . . . .	77,204
Knapsack books . . . . .	451,747
Library books . . . . .	21,260
Magazines and pamphlets . . . . .	9,869
Religious papers . . . . .	1,145,674
Secular papers . . . . .	46,800
Pages of tracts . . . . .	1,571,921
Reams of paper . . . . .	1,633
Envelopes . . . . .	289,375

The total business of the year amounts to over two hundred thousand dollars. To disburse this large amount has cost the Commission about one per cent. of the receipts, which is certainly a very economical management. The railroads have carried the delegates and

much of the freight free; the express and telegraph companies have also made very large contributions; thus enabling the Commission to devote its entire means almost to the soldiers. The Burnet House has entertained delegates free of charge from the commencement of the war—a very large contribution. The funds of the Commission are now low, and an earnest appeal is made to the public for help.

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## Colorado.

### Novel Contributions.

Mr. E. W. Sinclair, of Central City, *Colorado Territory*, sends scrip of Wyandott Lode, No. 4, value for \$500; and by the same mail we receive from Messrs. Hueks & Lambert, of San Francisco, an invoice of a hundred barrels of Axle Grease to lubricate the machinery of the Christian Commission.

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## THE THANKSGIVING COLLECTION.

Many churches have no service on thanksgiving; and some have time-honored local charities, which they could not well neglect. Will such congregations kindly remember our brave suffering soldiers and sailors, on the Sabbath after receiving this tract, and send their collections at once to the nearest branch of the Commission? See list on page 2 of cover.

## INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTION ABOUT SUPPLIES.

ALL good and suitable stores are welcomed, and all necessary freight and charges paid on them by the Commission, and are distributed by delegates of the Christian Commission personally.

**WHAT TO SEND.**—MONEY, by all means, if possible. We need funds to pay the expenses of our delegates and laborers in the field; for the purchase of books, tracts, papers, and for the purchase of delicacies and comforts *not* sent by your loving hearts, which are very necessary for distribution in the hospitals.

The Special Diet Kitchens, connected with the largest hospitals, now in successful operation, where delicacies and wholesome dishes are prepared for the sick soldier, with the same care and skill as at home, by the ladies employed in the Diet Kitchens by the Christian Commission, involve a large increase of labor and outlay of stores and funds. We appeal to the friends of the soldier at home, to meet this great, but necessary expense.

Cotton Shirts, Cotton Drawers, Canton Flannel Shirts and Drawers, Surgical Shirts and Drawers, (with tape strings to tie, instead of seams at the sides,) Large Cotton Drawers, (to wear in-doors as pants,) Dressing-Gowns, Slippers, (if of cloth or carpet, with thick soles,) Sheets, Pillow-cases, Bed-ticks, (single, for filling with straw,) Pillows, Pads for fractured limbs, Ring-pads for wounds, Fans, Netting to protect from flies, Housewives stored with needles, thread, buttons, pins, &c., Handkerchiefs, Wash-rags, Old Linen.

Oat-meal, Farina, Corn-starch, Dried Rusk, Jellies, Soda Biscuit, Butter Crackers, Boston Crackers, Pickles, Jams, Onions in barrels, Apples in barrels, Crauberries, Dried Fruits. Eggs are always needed. They should be carefully packed in boxes large enough to hold about 100 dozen, made with handles projecting from each end, made strong and packed **FULL**, well shaken down as they are packed, and sent by express. Good Black Tea, Chocolate, Lemons, Syrups. All preparations of the blackberry are of double value.

Good Brandy, Madeira Wine, Port Wine, Cordials. Domestic wines are excellent in winter, apt to spoil in summer.

**STATIONERY IS MUCH NEEDED**, paper, envelopes and pencils. Send the best Books, Magazines, Periodicals, Pictorials, and late newspapers.

**HOW TO PACK.**—Pack in boxes. Barrels are not as good. Secure well. Boxes should not be so large that two cannot conveniently lift them into a wagon. Pack eatables by themselves. Never pack perishable articles, such as oranges, lemons, bread, cakes, nor jars of jellies and jams, with other goods. Bottles and Jars should, when possible, be packed in boxes by themselves, well filled with saw dust or straw. Never pack Clothing, or Dried Fruits and Berries, with goods that are liable to break and spill. Tin cans should be soldered; all other modes fail. Stone jars should be corked and firmly bound with oiled linen or leather over the cork, and packed closely in saw-dust or hay, in boxes, never exceeding a dozen and a half in a box, and nailed strongly, to bear rough handling. Jellies in tumblers, covered with paper, and wines, cordials, &c., in bottles, with paper or other poor stoppers, are liable to spill out, and if packed with other things, sure to injure them.

**HOW TO MARK.**—Mark in plain letters and figures, with paint or ink on the boards—cards rub off. On one corner, the number of the box, according to the number sent by you in all, numbering your first box #1, your second #2, your third #3, and so on from the first sent to the last. On another corner, mark each box, as from your Society, giving the name, and **HAVE IT CONSPICUOUSLY ADDRESSED TO THE MOST CONVENIENT BRANCH OF THE U. S. CHRISTIAN COMMISSION, AS DIRECTED ON THE NEXT PAGE.**

To secure acknowledgments, and to save trouble, also send an invoice or list by mail, on paper, the common letter sheet size, written only on one side, specifying each barrel or box by number, and giving the contents of each by itself. Give your own name and Post-office in full, with the name of your State. Place also another list or invoice of the same kind in the box, under the lid.



# United States Christian Commission.

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Rev. W. E. BOARDMAN, *Secretary.*

Rev. LEMUEL MOSS, *Secretary Home Organization.*

Rev. BERNICE D. AMES, *Secretary Field Organization.*

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*Send money to Joseph Patterson, Treasurer U. S. Christian Commission, Western Bank, Philadelphia.*

*Letters and stores to U. S. Christian Commission, 11 Bank Street, Philadelphia.*



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N. S. Christian Commission.

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A DELEGATE'S STORY.

## INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTION ABOUT STORES.

All good and suitable stores are welcomed, and all necessary freight and charges paid on them by the Commission, and are distributed by delegates of the Christian Commission personally.

### WHAT TO SEND.

**MONEY**, by all means, if possible. To invest money in articles to send is unwise.

The Commission can purchase exactly what is wanted, at the very moment when needed most, and as a Commission at wholesale cheaper than others.

### CLOTHING, ETC.

Cotton shirts,	Pillow-cases,
Cotton drawers,	Bed-ticks (single for filling with straw),
Canton flannel shirts and drawers,	Pillows,
Surgical shirts and drawers (with tape strings to tie instead of seams at the sides),	Pads, for fractured limbs,
Large cotton drawers (to wear in-doors as pants),	Ring pads, for wounds,
Dressing gowns,	Fans,
Slippers (if of cloth or carpet, with stiff soles),	Netting, to protect from flies.
Sheets,	Housewives, stored with needles, thread, buttons, pins, &c.
	Handkerchiefs,
	Wash-rags,
	Old linen,

### FOOD, ETC.

Oat meal,	Soda biscuit,	Onions, in barrels,
Farina,	Butter crackers,	Apples, in barrels,
Corn-starch,	Boston crackers,	Cranberries,
Dried rusk,	Pickles,	Good butter, in small jars,
Jellies,	Jams,	Dried fruits.

In special cases, eggs, bread, cakes, &c., are needed, but not generally. They should never be sent unless specially called for.

### FOR BEVERAGES.

Good black tea, Chocolate, Lemons, Syrups.

All preparations of the Blackberry are of double value.

### STIMULANTS

Good brandy, Madeira wine, Port wine, Cordials.

Domestic wines are excellent in winter, apt to spoil in summer.

**GOOD READING MATTER.**—Send no trash. Soldiers deserve the best. A library is a valuable hygienic appliance. For the able-bodied, good publications are mental and spiritual food.

U. S. CHRISTIAN COMMISSION.

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# A DELEGATE'S STORY.

BY REV. H. Q. BUTTERFIELD.

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THE following paper was originally addressed to C. Demond, Esq., of Boston. The writer is pastor of the Congregational Church of Great Falls, New Hampshire.

Remarkable for terse statement, touching interest, and spiritual power, it is even more so as an example of delegate work in the army.

If one man, in one term of delegate service, could do so much to win souls to Christ, bind together the tent and the hearth, relieve bodily suffering, and meet the yearning for sympathy of our sons and brothers away in the war, what must the fruits be of the service of the fourteen hundred and more sent by the United States Christian Commission?

Mr. Hawes and myself left Boston, September 15th, for the Army of the Cumberland. We spent the following Sabbath in Louisville, where I preached twice,—once to the well, and once to the invalids. That was the day of the bloody Chickamauga battle. We hastened to the front, reaching Chattanooga Friday. For the first four days my labors are in the town.

I begin to move around among the sick. The first man I accost tells me he is a Christian. The second man, belonging to the 18th Regulars, lies dying. I cannot learn

name or history. I try to talk with him, and point him to the Saviour. The only answer is a groan. He is beyond my instruction. The next four patients all tell me they have a hope in Christ. It is good to look at their peaceful faces.

The next one I aeeost wants to know if I will write a letter for him to his Colonel. My promise to do so seems to do him a world of good. "O, sir," exelaims he, "yours is the first sympathy we have had sincee we have been lying here!" I encourage him, shake hands, and promise to see him again. When he afterward learns that I have written his letter, and done his errand, his gratitude is touehing. He belongs to the "Louisville Legion" (5th Kentueky).

The tears gush from E. R. Richardson's eyes as I ask if he is trying to live a Christian life. "I was taught to do so, sir." God bless the prayers of faithful parents.

So ends my first half day among the sick. It is a blessed work.

On my next trip, I find a sick soldier, looking sad and diseouraged. I try to raise his spirits; telling him we appreciate his services; that he is not forgotten at home; that thousands are praying for him. It is too much for him. He turns aside his head, and bursts into tears. So preeious is a little sympathy; so hungry are these poor sick men for it.

"Do you enjoy religion?" I ask another soldier. "Yes, sir." "Where did you obtain it?" "Right in that corner, sir!" And he points to a spot where he has been previously lying. I find that Brother T. D. Ewing, of the Commission, has been showing him the way.

Here is a brisk young soldier, not piously inclined, but very eheerful. Pointing to an ugly wound upon his shoulder, he says, "You see I have lately got my star," i. e., badge of the Brigadier. I congratulate him upon *his promotion*.

Here is an Illinois soldier, who tells me his father and all his brothers are disloyal. But he says he has learned to put God first, country next, family next, and self last. Noble sentiments. I tell him many prayers are offered for him at home. "Yes," says he, "I know it. *I have a wife who is putting in her time that way.*" Here are three soldiers, lying side by side, who are seekers. Their hearts are tender, and I find it a blessed privilege to point them to Christ.

Here is a brave fellow, whose chest has almost been crushed in by the premature fall of a chimney,—the house being pulled down for fortifications. With much effort he whispers into my ear the contents of a letter for his wife. "Shall I tell her you are seeking Christ?" "Yes; and tell her to pray for me." And his gushing tears attest his sincerity. May God bless Joseph West!

Sunday, I preach in the field to the 9th Indiana. On Monday evening I lead a soldier's prayer-meeting in the Methodist church. The house is crowded. The feeling is deep and tender. The prayers are most urgent and importunate, and the singing is like the sound of many waters. The next evening I preach in the same place, to an audience equally large. No old, no very young; no women; all sturdy, sober, thinking men. I have never preached to so much *brain* gathered into one and the same audience before.

The next day, Brothers Burnell, Hawes, and myself are detailed to go into the field hospital, two miles north of Chattanooga.

Here are some 1500 wounded, lying in tents, in a beautiful valley, which is surrounded on three sides by high hills. Here the rest of my time is spent.

The wounded are arranged according to corps and divisions. Mr. Burnell takes McCook's corps, Mr. Hawes

takes Thomas', and I, Crittenden's. Our work is thus systematized.

Our first aim is to relieve pressing physical wants; for Bragg has at last received our flag of truce, and our wounded boys, after having lain ten days on the field, their wounds undressed, are coming in. Most of them have been stripped of money and clothing; the heartless rebels leaving scarcely enough to cover nakedness.

Here is a fine young fellow just from the field. He is wrapped in a sheet, and it is his only covering. While kind hands are clothing him, and dressing his wounds, I run to the tent and bring him a cordial. He drinks, and says, "How good that tastes!" See how his face shines! Were he lying on a bed of roses in Paradise, "waxing well of his deep wounds," he could not seem happier; so glad is he to escape from rebel hands. What a pleasure to minister to his wants!

Wheeler's cavalry makes a savage raid, and destroys three tons of our stores, as they are slowly coming over the Cumberland Mountains. This cripples us during our whole stay. We have not a tithe of what we really need for distribution. But we manage to do considerable with but little.

Here are two papers of farina and one of corn starch. How many tastes they afford to sick men! How many relishes they give to poor appetites! How many blessings they bring the Christian Commission!

Our cordials and stimulants are meagre in quantity. But how many sick men are refreshed! How many sip, and say, "O, thank you, thank you!" Many a soldier is toned up for amputation, or recruited after having waked from his chloroform sleep.

Next to these more pressing wants, the soldiers call for papers, tracts and books. Go into a tent, and almost the

first question is, "Chaplain, can you give us anything to read?" And the Christian Commission's slices and crumbs from the bread of life seem sweeter to them than any luxuries or delicacies.

Then I carry around, at intervals, paper, stamps and envelopes for those soldiers who have left all their effects on the battle-field. "Chaplain, what is there to pay?" "Nothing. The Christian Commission sends you these, and sends me to present them." "Bully for the Christian Commission, and bully for you too!"

But here are men who cannot stir, or whose right arms are shattered. How can they write? How gratefully they accept my services as amanuensis! Jona. Urnston (86th Ind.) wishes me to write to his mother. Wounded on the 19th, in the right hand and the right hip. Fell into the rebels' hands on the 20th, and was held till Oct. 1. Paroled and sent here. His wounds doing well. Best of all, and what will rejoice his mother's heart, he wants me to say to her he is seeking Christ.

A. S. Goodwin (19th Ohio) wants me to write his father. One ball has lodged in his left thigh; another has gone through his right knee-joint, and he has been struck in the bowels with a canister shot. Held by the rebels ten days. Hopes to live to see home, and gladdens his father by saying: "I put my trust in God."

At 8 o'clock of the last night I spent in camp, one of the nurses comes, and says there is a soldier in one of my tents who cannot live till morning, and who wishes to see you. I followed him at once. The night is dark, and the rain pours, and has poured for the last three days. Ah! it is Barnabas S. Braekett (17th Ky.), whom I have met and prayed with before, and who has told me he was ready to go. The surgeon has told him his time is at hand, and he has sent for me to do the offices of the nearest friend.



He wants me to write to his father, who is a Baptist clergyman in Calhoun, Ky., and send him his well-worn Testament. "Brother Willis," who is the only unconverted one in the family, I must tell to meet him in heaven. His money I may take and use it to send home his body. While waiting for me to write these items down, he bursts forth ever and anon in little snatches of sacred song:

"I know that I love Jesus."

These things done, I kneel upon the damp straw of his pallet, the rain plashing and roaring against the canvas, and commend his soul to God. Then he gives me his clammy hand, and hopes to meet me in heaven; and we part. At 2 o'clock he dies, shouting his triumph over death.

Here is a member of the 36th Ind. Arm off. "Have you a hope, Mr. Dudley?" "I am like thousands of others. I have been putting this matter off." "But will you not, Mr. Dudley, begin to seek the Lord now?" "I have promised him, if he will only heal me up this time, I will try to serve him." And the great tears roll down his cheeks like rain. Here is John S. Boland (86th Ill.). His arm is off too, but his face is radiant. "Have you a hope, John?" "Yes, sir." "When did you obtain it—since you joined the army?" "In the last battle!" (Chickamauga.) What a place for conversion! What a place to find peace—amidst the smoke and roar and carnage of the battle-field!

Here is Sergeant Hiram Godfrey, 13th Mich. I pray with him; his heart is tender; his eyes fill with tears, and his lips move in silent prayer. He is giving his soul to Christ. Beautiful sight! He promises me, and tears attest his sincerity, that he *will* try to serve God.

Here is G. W. Caldwell, of the 84th Ill. I write to his

wife. "May I ask her to pray for you?" "You may."  
 "And will you not try to trust Jesus for yourself?" "I  
 will! I will!" He soon passes away, and I have to write  
 a second and sadder letter to his wife.

These are specimen cases.

One of my most pleasant labors is to hold prayer-meetings in the tents of the wounded. On Saturday and Sunday, October 10th and 11th, I go through all my parish—Crittenden's corps—holding short services, and preaching a short sermon in all the tents but three. The whole service is from ten to fifteen minutes long. As I explain 2 Cor. 5:1, and contrast the torn and dissolving tent with the solid "house not made with hands," showing the glorious privilege of passing from the one to the other, the tears fill the soldier's eyes to think how his poor tent lies torn and battered; and his soul is filled with longings to enter the house. Good attention in all the tents; and in some the feeling is so deep and strong as to extemporize a prayer-meeting, in which nearly all take part.

As I go through the tents one day, James Coit, a Kentuckian, wearing on his body six ugly wounds, says to me: "Chaplain, when are you coming to hold another prayer-meeting?" "This evening." "Chaplain, why not *now*?" "Very well," I reply, "I am a minute man; let it be *now*." So I take off my hat, and pull out my Testament, and we have a precious meeting.

There is another sad office I am called to perform. It is to follow the dead soldier to the grave. Caldwell, whom I tried to lead to Christ, and Harlin, a brave boy, shot on the mountains by the rebel sharp-shooters, firing across the river: these I am called to commit to the dust. Both are lowered into the same grave, and rest side by side.

In going my rounds, I find a brave and stalwart fellow, belonging to the 7th Penn. Cavalry. His wounds make it

difficult for him to speak, and difficult for him to hear. I kneel by his pallet, and after much trouble learn the fact that he is trusting in his Saviour. As I meet him from time to time, we adopt a kind of spiritual free-masonry. I point upward, as much as to say: "Your hope and your citizenship are in heaven." And he will always slowly and feebly raise his hand in response.

Going into his tent to hold a meeting, Sunday, Oct. 11th, I find that he has just passed away. I retire, and hold no service there. Two hours after, on coming from a tent, I see the burial party just starting. What! is there no chaplain? Has no prayer been said? Must my brave soldier be buried thus? It *must* not be. And so I start at full speed, to overtake the party before they reach the grave. I reach the spot just as they are lowering him to his rest. The tender-hearted soldiers gratefully accept my services; a prayer is offered: thus is William Donald committed to the dust.

"No useless coffin inclosed his breast,  
Nor in sheet nor in shroud we wound him;  
But he lay like a warrior taking his rest;"

the only thing between him and mother earth his well-worn blanket. But my vision goes beyond the blanket and the rude grave. I see the resurrection process; I hear that last trumpet whose sonorous energy quickens every particle of his sleeping dust. What a form this humble blanket discloses! What a radiant shape comes from this grave, and goes up to be "forever with the Lord." And so the scene is hallowed; and the look and the vision makes this humble grave a vista, widening and opening into paradise.

These are some of the incidents of my work. I enjoyed it more than I can find words to express.

For convalescents, lively, interesting books, the monthlies, the pictorials, works of art, science, and literature, as well as those for moral and spiritual culture, such as you would put into the hands of a brother recovering.

STATIONERY IS MUCH NEEDED, paper, envelopes, and pencils.

## HOW TO PACK.

Pack in boxes. Barrels are not as good. Secure well. Boxes should not be so large that two cannot conveniently lift them into a wagon. Pack eatables by themselves. Never pack perishable articles, such as oranges, lemons, bread, cakes, nor jars of jellies and jams, with other goods. Tin cans should be soldered; all other modes fail. Stone jars should be corked and firmly bound with oiled linen or leather over the cork, and packed closely in saw-dust or hay, in boxes never exceeding a dozen and a half in a box, and nailed strongly, to bear rough handling. Jellies in tumblers, covered with paper, and wines, cordials, &c., in bottles, with paper or other poor stoppers, are liable to spill out, and if packed with other things, sure to injure them.

## HOW TO MARK.

Mark with paint or ink on the boards,—cards rub off,—in plain letters and figures. On one corner, the number of the box according to the number sent by you in-all, numbering your first box \*1, your second \*2, your third \*3, and so on from the first sent to the last. On another corner, mark each box as from your Society, giving the name, and conspicuously also mark as follows:

“GEORGE H. STUART,

Chairman Christian Commission,  
11 Bank Street, Philadelphia,”

or whatever other name and place you wish to send it to:

To secure acknowledgments, and to save trouble, also send an invoice or list by mail, on paper, the common letter sheet size, written only on one side, specifying each box or barrel by number, and giving the contents of each by itself. Give your own name and post-office in full, with the name of your State. Place also another list or invoice of the same kind in the box under the lid, and if with this last you place also an envelope addressed to yourself, with a postage stamp upon it, you may sometimes,—not always,—have it returned to you through the mail, with the signature of the delegate, and the name of the hospital camp where he distributed it.

Write plain. Above all, write your own name distinctly, and to save emharrassment, give your address in full, especially whether Miss or Mrs. or Rev.

Money should be sent to JOSEPH PATTERSON, Esq., Treasurer, at Western Bank, Philadelphia.

# Communications and Contributions

For the UNITED STATES CHRISTIAN COMMISSION may be sent to any of the following places, as may be most convenient, addressed to the persons designated.

PHILADELPHIA.—Letters to Rev. W. E. Boardman, 11 Bank Street; money to Joseph Patterson, at the Western Bank; stores to George H. Stuart, 11 Bank Street.

NEW YORK.—Letters and supplies to Nathan Bishop, 30 Bible House; money to James M. Brown, 59 Wall Street.

BOSTON.—Letters to Charles Demond, 4 Court Street; money to Joseph Storey, 112 Tremont Street; stores to L. P. Rowland, Tremont Temple.

PITTSBURG.—Letters to Robert C Totten; money to Joseph Albee, 71 Wood Street; stores to W. P. Weyman, 79 Smithfield Street.

CINCINNATI.—Letters to Rev. J. F. Marlay; money to W. T. Perkins, 17 West Third Street; supplies to A. E. Chamberlain, Rooms Christian Commission, 51 Vine Street.

INDIANAPOLIS, IND.—Letters to C. N. Todd; money to James M. Ray; supplies to G. W. Clippinger.

CHICAGO.—Letters to B. F. Jacobs, P. O. Box 5801; money to John V. Farwell; supplies to Rooms Young Men's Christian Association, Methodist Church Block.

ST. LOUIS.—Letters to J. H. Parsons, *Daily Union* office; money to Edward Ticknor; supplies to Isaac S. Smyth, Christian Commission office, under Lindell Hotel.

DETROIT.—Communications, money, and supplies to E. C. Walker.

BALTIMORE.—Letters to Rev. J. McJilton; money to Rev. Geo. P. Hays; stores to G. S. Griffith, 77 West Baltimore Street.

BUFFALO, N. Y.—Communications and supplies to John D. Hill, M.D.

TROY, N. Y.—Letters, money, and supplies to Charles P. Hartt.

HARRISBURG, PA.—Communications, money, and supplies to Rev. T. H. Robinson.

ROCHESTER, N. Y.—Communications, money, and supplies to Oliver D. Grosvenor.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Communications, money, and supplies to William Ballantyne, 498 Seventh Street, or Rev. S. L. Bowler, 500 H Street.

LOUISVILLE, KY.—Communications, money, and supplies to J. Edward Hardy, care of J. G. Dodge & Co., 325 Main Street.

PEORIA, ILL.—Communications, money, and supplies to William Reynolds.

FREDERICK, MD.—Communications, money, and supplies to Gideon Bantz.

HAGERSTOWN, MD.—Communications, money, and supplies to Rev. Mr. Evans.



# INFORMATION

## FOR

# ARMY MEETINGS.

In many places the fourth Sabbath evening of the month is devoted to a Union Monthly Concert of Prayer for the Army and Navy. The deepest interest has been excited by these meetings. It is humbly suggested to all who believe in the power of prayer, to form such meetings during the crisis of our nation's destiny. This tract is compiled with the view of affording information for these Army Meetings. Please circulate it.

DECEMBER, 1864.



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- CLEVELAND, O**—Letters to L. F. Mellen; money to S. H. Mather; supplies to Stillman Witt.
- DETROIT, MICH.**—Stores to Francis Raymond, 130 Jefferson Avenue; Letters to C. F. Clarke, Secretary; money to E. C. Walker.
- FREDERICK, MD.**—Letters, money and supplies to Gideon Bantz.
- HAGERSTOWN, MD.**—Letters, money and supplies to Rev. J. Evans.
- HARTFORD, Connecticut Branch.**—Letters to Rev. H. Powers; money to A. G. Hammond, Exchange Bank; supplies to Rooms of Ladies' Soldiers' Aid Society, 87 Asylum Street.
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- LOUISVILLE, KY.**—Letters, money and supplies to J. Edward Hardy, care of J. G. Dodge & Co., 325 Main Street.
- MILWAUKEE, WIS.**—Letters to D. W. Perkins; money to John A. Dutcher; stores to Walter S. Carter, care Dutcher, Bail & Goodrich, 103 E. Water St.
- NEW YORK.**—Letters and supplies to Dr. N. Bishop, Rooms U. S. C. C., 30 Bible House; money to James M. Brown, 59 Wall Street.
- PEORIA, ILL.**—Money to Theo. Higbee; letters and supplies to Wm. Reynolds, Rooms 10 South Adams street (up stairs.)
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- SAN FRANCISCO.**—Letters to Rev. E. Thomas, 711 Mission Street; money to P. Sather, (Sather & Co.); supplies to J. B. Roberts, 215 California St.
- TROY, N. Y.**—Letters and money to F. P. Allen; supplies to J. H. Willard.
- UTICA, N. Y.**—*Central New York Branch*—Money to R. S. Williams (Cashier Oneida Bank). Treasurer, 157 Genesee Street; letters and supplies to Rev. D. W. Bristol, D. D. Secretary and Agent, 32 Genesee Street.
- VIRGINIA, KEY**—Letters and money to Rev. Franklin Rising.
- WASHINGTON, D. C.**—Letters, money and supplies to William Ballantyne, 498 Seventh Street; or Rev. J. J. Abbott, 500 H Street.
- WHEELING, W. V.**—Letters, money and supplies to R. Crangle.



# INFORMATION

## FOR

# DECEMBER MEETINGS.

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### *The Gulf Department.*

THIS department and the whole line of seaboard from New York to Fort Vancouver, a range of 21,856 miles, with all our ships of war and foreign stations, is under the care of the New York Branch. The difficulty of extending the work of the Christian Commission along such an extent of territory, in such an unhealthy climate as the Gulf Coast, and with irregular means of transportation, could only have been surmounted by the energy, skill, and perseverance of the gentlemen who have taken it in charge. Holding the highest positions, civic, commercial, social, and literary, they have relinquished lucrative and honorable positions to endure the dangers of the sea and the hardships of the field, brave the miasma and yellow fever, and fag at the less romantic but no less necessary drudgery of the office, to the year's end.

The work of the New York Branch during the year 1863 was chiefly in the supply of preaching and reading. A gentleman of leisure and high literary and religious attainments, devoted himself to the work of selecting and compiling soldiers' reading-matter; and it is believed

that the books and tracts furnished to the libraries and reading-rooms of the hospitals and ships of war by the New York Committee cannot be excelled. Tons of magazines and of the metropolitan papers are continually in process of shipment; and correspondence with chaplains, surgeons, and commanders is daily increasing the demand.

The Christly department, of relief for suffering humanity has, during the present year, assumed increasing proportions. The prevention of disease, by the circulation of tens of thousands of Manuals of Soldier's Health, and the distribution of hogshheads of Blackberry Syrup, has been of even greater benefit to our soldiers than the tons of fruit and the eases of clothing distributed to the sick and wounded, and the exchanged prisoners. The outlay of the New York Committee is increasing accordingly, and we doubt not that the princely generosity of the Great Metropolis will be fully adequate to all proper demands for the relief of our brave defenders.

The Brooklyn Branch is an independent organization, and is forwarding delegates, publications, and hospital stores, at a rate worthy of the third city of the Union.

The following letters to Hon. J. V. C. Smith, the Field Agent of the New York Branch, illustrate the work of its delegates..

MORGANZIA, October 26, 1864.

Hon. J. V. C. Smith:

DEAR SIR—The three barrels of reading and hospital stores you last sent, came in good time and order. I have now a supply for some days to come. The men

are busy scouting, preparing for winter quarters—with rumors of changes. The sanitary supplies\* go well. The tent is doing good service. Besides affording facilities for distribution, it is used for a Bible-class on Sabbath morning, preaching in the evening, and prayer-meeting each evening in the week—all of which are well attended. I have often wished you could be present in our meetings, and mark the spirit of devotion and good sense manifested. The meeting last evening was of great sweetness and power. One testified that he found the grace of God at Morganzia; another had been an ignorant Roman Catholic, but was brought marvellously to the experience of the gospel. I design to write, some day, on "Religion in the Army," as it has fallen under my own observation.

Rev. Mr. Watson spent two weeks with me; and by his ability and readiness to work, made a decidedly favorable impression, and left, much to the regret of all. I doubt not he will do excellent service at Baton Rouge. I hear also good reports from Rev. Mr. Whittier. Such men are an acquisition to the Commission. Unless we have great military changes, I shall need about the usual supply. I have the commencement of a good Circulating Library; please send me all the books you can spare, without doing injustice to others. There are German books in your reading-room; please send some of them. I do not get an adequate supply of German reading. Some regiments are largely composed of Germans—great readers.

The colored soldiers are anxious to learn, and must

\* The fruits, syrups, &c., sent by the Christian Commission.

have books adapted to their capacity. Writing material is in great demand. I would respectfully recommend, if you have none on hand, to buy some. It is hard for a soldier, who has not been paid for six months, not to be able to write his mother a letter, for want of a sheet of paper and envelopes. Many such are here.

In a word, hardly anything comes amiss, in an army like this.

Grateful for the promptness with which you have always sent supplies, I have the honor to be

Your obedient servant,

H. C. DUNHAM.

NEW ORLEANS, Oct. 31, 1864.

Dr. J. V. C. Smith, Agent,  
U. S. Christian Commission:

SIR—I have the honor to report my work for the months of September and October, as follows: During September the Sabbath services were kept up at the Military Prison, Naval Hospital, Wood's Press, and Soldier's Home, with occasional services on shipboard and at camps. Packages of reading were distributed at other prisons and depot of troops. Sixteen public religious services were held. The Prisoners' Commission has occupied a large part of my time. Many cases of interest come before us. Letters enclosed indicate the kind of work done.

The interest at the Soldier's Home and in our Reading-room has decreased, because of the small force of troops here, and greater strictness in keeping them in quarters. Only eighty-three visitors to the rooms are recorded; but quite a number of calls for books—thirty taken out.

I have received ninety letters, and written twenty-seven. During the month of October I was enabled to devote more time to the distribution of reading matter, as the Prisoners' Commission closed its labors, and turned over its business to the Provost Marshal General, on the 15th. The same Sabbath various labors were performed, the camps were supplied, and considerable time occupied in attending to business of the Depository.

#### Revival.

In several camps, religious meetings have been held. The Second Connecticut Battery is enjoying quite a revival. Several soldiers have recently professed conversion, at the Baptist church. A number of young soldiers have started there for heaven; and the prayer-meetings are growing in interest.

Another lot of our exchanged prisoners came in a few days ago from Tyler, Texas. It was pleasant to go among them, and give papers, Testaments, letter-paper, &c. Many of them were enfeebled by confinement and poor fare, and all were happy in being again under the old flag.

#### The Buried Flag.

This reminds me of a flag I saw in their camp. It was captured with them, but concealed by burial in the earth, and brought away in the lining of an officer's coat. This piece of bunting is highly valued by the brave men of the Forty-eighth Ohio.

#### Intercession.

During the month I was able to do some kindness at one time to the soldiers in jail, most of whom had, for a

disturbance, been shut up for ten days and nights within their cells. The trouble was caused by their being kept, on two occasions, for nearly twenty-four hours, without food. The Provost Marshal granted my request for their release from close confinement. At another time, on my representations, the Provost Marshal General released from close confinement some sixty prisoners, allowing them the air and light needful for health, and consistent with safety. I was also granted the pardon of several poor fellows, who appeared worthy of clemency—one a boy, sentenced to ten years' imprisonment, and who was so ill as not to be expected to live as many days, when released.

**Welcome Always.**

I have given out 69 packages of reading, being 7533 publications—of which number there were 205 Hymns, 186 Testaments, and 8 Bibles. My labors in the Prison, the Hospital, the Home, and camps, are full of encouragement. They are well received always; and in the course of a month, because of the shifting of troops, and changing of the men in prison and hospitals, many thousands are addressed—often for the first or last time—and supplied with something good to read. There is every reason to believe that God's rich blessing attends this work.

*October.*—Fifty-five visitors to Reading-room; twenty books taken; six names to Temperance pledge.

Very respectfully,

R. K. DROSSY, *Delegato.*



## Army of the Shenandoah.

### The Happiest Hours of Life.

This work, of meeting trains and succoring wounded at Martinsburg, we have found hard for the body, being obliged, as we often have been, to continue it far into the night. At the same time we can truly say, it is a blessed work, truly Christ-like. And you often find where least you expect it, that you have been ministering to Christ in the person of his humble followers. "Is the Heavenly Friend near you to support and comfort you?" I asked a poor suffering man, who had just been brought into the church, with his leg amputated, and laid upon a hard bed of straw. "O, yes," said he, "he is with me, he is precious to me. He has been for many years, but never has he seemed so precious and so near as since I was wounded. All day and all night I lay upon the field, after I was struck and my leg fractured, but, strange as it may seem, they were the happiest hours of my life, made so by the Saviour's presence." "What shall I write to your family?" "Tell my dear wife, I am happy, I am just where I would be, because I am just where God, in his providence, has brought me. I am willing to die or live, just as will best promote his glory." He was soon called to glorify God in his death.

### No Humbug.

We have not only had repeated opportunities of witnessing such triumphs of the power of faith and grace, but we have also witnessed the power of Christian kindness upon strong, hard men, and even upon Rebels. As we have ministered to their temporal wants, and ad-



dressed to them words of kindness, we have often seen tears start from eyes unaccustomed to weep, and have received the hearty "God bless you," "God bless the Christian Commission." "This is what I call living Christianity." "This is the religion for me." "I can't stand this," said a rough, hard-looking soldier, who was badly wounded in the foot, but able to hobble along on crutches, "I can't stand this, boys, it overcomes me, I give in," and, as he spoke and hobbled toward us, his whole frame shook with inward emotion, and the big tears fell from his sunburnt face, which he struggled in vain to keep back and hide from his comrades, "you know," he continued, "I am no coward, I can face the enemy, and not wink, but this kindness kills me, it breaks me all to pieces. I have heard all about these men, delegates of the Christian Commission; my wife has written me about them, and the society which sends them forth, and the work they do, and do it all for nothing, and find themselves. I tell you, boys, this is no humbug. It is a big thing. It is the gospel for body and soul, just what we all need;" and so he went on with a truly eloquent speech, of some minutes, and closed by wishing a thousand blessings upon us and the Christian Commission.

P. B. THAYER, *Garland, Me.*

#### The Revival.

CAMP PAROLE, ANNAPOLIS, Md.  
October 20, 1864.

G. S. Griffith, Esq., Chairman Maryland Com. Christ'n Com'n.

DEAR BROTHER—The good work of God has not yet ceased, though about one hundred and fifty, if not nearly

two hundred persons have been converted and recovered from backsliding—thirty-five of them having been baptized, nearly one-half of them by immersion—one hundred and sixty-five have joined our Soldiers' Christian Association since September 6th, and Christians, converts, and reclaimed, have for the most part grown wonderfully in grace, holy joy, and usefulness. The latter, according to David in Psalm li. 12th and 13th, "Return unto me the joy of thy salvation, and uphold me with thy free spirit; then will I teach transgressors thy way, and sinners shall be converted unto thee."

O how these Christian soldiers have prayed and wrought for Christ; I hardly ever witnessed more fervent, effectual prayers—they availed much with God. It would sometimes seem almost as if heaven would be taken by violence. Some of them have been very faithful in personal effort with sinners and backsliders, and oh, how many of the latter there are in the army. Older Christians and young converts have been successful in bringing out the impenitent and wandering to our evening meetings. It would do your heart good now, more than when you and Dr. Schaff, of New York, were here the 6th inst., to hear the Christians reclaimed and converts pray and talk in our meetings.

A growth in grace, holy joy and power with God is manifest to all those who have been there for weeks. The remark was made the other day that converts and recovered sinners were scarcely ever known to have stood better and to have ripened in experience more rapidly and extensively than those of this soldiers' camp. Last evening quite a number spoke, in the hearing

of Rev. Mr. Gilbert, General Agent of the American Bible Society, and of the Christian Commission, who was surprised and delighted with what he saw and heard. This evening some seventy-five persons arose to manifest their purpose to pray and labor yet more than they have done hitherto, for the continuance and greater power of this work of God, as they believe God has no thought of stopping it, so they have no idea of being weary in this well-doing. O how I do love these brethren of Jesus and rejoice in my labors here. I am in my element. Bless the Lord that I was sent here. Thanks to you for favoring me with this position. Some few incidents may interest you. At a meeting a young man arose and said, "That only two hours before he came to the meeting he used profane language; convicted in this meeting, he gave himself up to God, and seemed to have the peace of pardon." Others said, "that their sins were forgiven at the meeting mentioned." Another soldier said at a meeting: "Last night, after all were in bed and still, I, burdened for sinners, knelt down alone to pray for them—my soul went up in agonizing prayer to God. A sinner came along hearing eries as of those in distress, and first with an oath, asked the cause of a man lying down there. He soon learned. I talked with him about his soul—he dropped on his knees by my side, and with tears, begged me to pray for him, and promised to attend to the salvation of his soul." This beloved brother, Vice-President of the Soldiers' Christian Association, now gone from us, and in a hospital in Baltimore, was an efficient worker, as well as a man of prevalence in prayer; we are sorry to lose such. O how they do regret to

leave Camp Parole. Said a converted backslider, "I do regret to leave this camp and these meetings. Here I was reclaimed. I left home a wicked man, though in early life for three years in the enjoyment of religion, as I then supposed. I have a pious praying wife, and long to see her, and make her glad by the change God has wrought in me; but I am sorry to leave these meetings, and to leave you, Mr. Colton. I remember the pleasant look with which you first accosted me in my quarters. I remember the instructions since received; I am perfectly happy in God now. O how much to be thankful for. How can I leave?" This and more he said, as he took his leave the other night, with tears. He spoke both publicly and to me at the close of the meeting. O, Mr. Griffith, my heart is enlarged; when shall I stop? I have many more like records in my note-book. Enough now; more another time.

Yours in the Lord

ERASTUS COLTON,  
Agent U. S. Christian Commission, Camp Parole.

## Army of the Potomac.

### The Revival at Camp Distribution.

At this Camp the preaching the blessed Gospel has had, and is having, a gloriously telling effect upon the hearts of the soldiers. I have seen scores, and on one occasion nearly a hundred, rise at once, requesting an interest in the prayers of God's people. Nearly every day souls were born into the kingdom of Jesus. I have seen from fifteen to twenty at a time bowing at our altars and crying for mercy. Nor were they feeble and inaudible cries, but like the publican, "God be merciful to me a sinner," "Lord save me;" thus evincing a degree of earnestness which led us to believe that the work was not superficial, but one that went to the depths of the soul. And what was still more convincing in this regard, I have heard them, after having found the Saviour, testify from their own experience that Christ *had* power on earth to forgive sin.

### A Protracted Meeting.

At an experience meeting, a soldier in speaking of the protracted efforts the Commission was putting forth for the salvation of those in arms said, "This is the longest protracted meeting I ever attended in my life. I have been in this camp ten weeks, and I have not missed a single meeting, I wish it would continue always, and it would be my blessed privilege to go from these meetings to a glorious meeting in heaven." Another soldier, one to whom I had the privilege of presenting the truth of

God, and of inviting him to accept of salvation in Jesus Christ while a sinner, said : " One week ago I came into this camp a wild, wicked, hardened sinner. I came into the meeting on Sunday evening, and I was invited forward for prayer, I did not heed the invitation. The next evening I went again, and was again invited, I accepted the invitation, prostrated myself at the altar, and there God for Christ sake forgave me my sins."

Your delegate, in submitting the above statistical statement of his work while in the service of your Commission, has to add his testimony to that delivered by hundreds of others, to the great field for the effecting of temporal and spiritual benefit to the soldier open to the Christian Commission, and to the good which, under God's blessing, its agents have been enabled to achieve. Very noticeable, too, is the welcome given in every tent to the delegate, the respectful and thankful attention with which his ministrations—whether of counsel, warning or reproof—are received ; the gratitude evoked by even the smallest office of kindness, and the entire confidence reposed in every one who wears the Commission's badge.

#### Ears to Hear.

I think I may say that, during a ministry of fourteen years, I have never labored where there was so earnest attention to spiritual truth, and so seemingly earnest a desire to profit by it, as in that City Point hospital.

REV. J. GORDON CARNAHAN.

#### The Power of the Spirit of God.

While at Camp Distribution my work was devoted wholly to the welfare of the soul. Our meetings there



were attended with great interest. Our chapel, capable of seating about one thousand men, was often filled to the utmost of its capacity. The Spirit of God was present with us, and at the close of the sermon sometimes as many as fifty would rise for prayers. We usually followed the preaching service with a prayer-meeting, inviting the inquiring ones to come forward for religious conversation and prayer. Not unfrequently twenty-five of these brave men would come forward, and in tears acknowledge their sinfulness, while they sought to cast themselves on the mercy of Christ. The power of the Almighty was felt. The gracious Spirit was doing His work.

#### The Soldiers Praying for us.

Our prayer-meetings were among the most interesting of my life. Such earnestness, and such devotedness, and such strong faith, we seldom see manifested at home. I have never heard such prayers offered for loved ones and for churches at home as these soldiers offer. A husband prays for an absent wife and children; a young lad prays in such child-like faith and confidence for a mother and sisters at home, that you almost feel that you yourself have never prayed at all. These are earnest men.

#### Prayer with a Soul in it.

They have seen suffering and endured hardship, and mellowed down by the severities of war—they speak what they feel. Their language has a soul in it, and it finds a soul in the hearer, unless he has encased it in a cage of steel.

### Love to the Brethren.

The apostle says, "by this shall ye know that ye have passed from death unto life, because ye love the brethren," and I have never seen a livelier test of this than a colored soldier gave at the close of one of our evening meetings. There was a simplicity in his expression which touched all our hearts, and he closed his remarks by saying, in a most impressive manner, "I love my Saviour, I love the Church of Christ, I love the world, I love everybody, I love them that don't love me." And he sat down. I felt that that poor son of Africa had reached the climax in Christian experience. Like the martyred Stephen, and his Saviour before him, he loved his enemies, and he could pray for his masters who had despitefully used him.

### Swift to Hear.

One of the most gratifying features of the army is the readiness with which they receive religious instruction. The demand for Christian laborers is vastly greater than the supply. The Macedonian cry from the adjacent forts reached our ears, "Come over and help us." And though some of our delegates preached as many as four times on the Sabbath, still we could not satisfy the demand.

### Rich Experience for Ministers.

No minister can have a richer experience than the army affords, and none probably can find a field of greater usefulness. The church which sends out its pastor will receive a blessing for it, and if he carries a warm heart, filled with the Spirit of Christ, he may be

the means of a rejoicing in camp which shall cause joy in heaven.

M. L. SEVERANCE,  
Boscawen, N. H.

#### The Revival in the 18th Corps.

Another feature, and to my mind the most important one in results, is the public means of grace. Last Sunday night, upward of fifteen men arose and signified their desire to flee the wrath to come, and be saved from their sins. We held one of the most interesting prayer-meetings last Saturday evening that I ever attended. There was a sweet and heavenly influence resting down upon the assembly, and we could say with Peter, "Lord, it is good for us to be here."

#### Report of M. S. Wells, Delegate.

Many have been converted in the 18th Army Corps, of late, and are going forth rejoicing in the Lord. And now as the 10th Army Corps has taken the place of the 18th, the same blessed influences continue, and we shall look for the continuation of the same blessed results.

Our distribution of reading matter among the sick wards has a salutary benefit. Men read, and forget their aches and pains, and thus avoid low-spiritedness—they are less discontented. In short, it is a decided sanitary department, for which we have a very comfortable supply as we need them.

I am, Sir, very happy and contented in my work, and hope to render myself both useful to the soldier and the Commission that has committed such a trust to my hands.

But I must close. There is a very healthy state of things in the various departments of the Commission here, and we expect to find the records at last show a glorious harvest of souls for the Redeemer. May the blessing of our Lord Jesus Christ be upon the United States Christian Commission is my humble prayer.

Respectfully yours,

M. S. WELLS.

#### For Ministers.

I have nothing to report which differs essentially from the many reports which I have read of Delegates of the Christian Commission. The work exceeded in power to interest my whole spiritual nature, any experience of my life. My work commenced the day before I received my commission, at Boston, while on the cars to and from the city, and did not cease until I delivered a soldier boy to his mother, in my town, five minutes before reaching my home. He is on furlough.

The *fulness* of the work is truly wonderful. On every hand, in every hour of the day, travelling or sitting, there is abundant opportunity to bless soldiers; and the fulness of the blessing flows back into one's own heart.

My people were greatly benefitted by my absence; and if they had not been, I think I have been enough better man for going, to make it policy for them to send me again.

Truly yours,

E. DOUGASS,

Bridgewater, Mass.

## Special Diet Kitchen Bill of Fare.

Soup—Mutton,	Pudding—Bread,
Beef,	Rice,
Chicken,	Tapioca,
Fish—Cod,	Corn Starch,
Meats,	Farina,
Chickens,	Blane Mange,
Baked Apples,	Custard—Boiled,
Potatoes—Roast,	Baked,
Bread and Butter,	Fruits,
Corn Bread,	Jellies,
Biscuit,	Jams,
Toast—Dry,	Preserves,
Butter,	Tea,
Milk,	Cocoa,
Eggs—Boiled,	Gruel,
Poached,	Tomatoes.

## Blackberry Cordial.

Again as I passed the rounds with the blackberry cordial and heard such expressions as these: “Not any more, Chaplain, your medicine has cured my diarrhoea, I should never have got well without it. God bless the Christian Commission.” “O Chaplain, give me some of that medicine, I have heard of it at the front as good for me, by those who have been cured by it,” and then the hearty “thank you.” I am fully persuaded that this branch of the work is of great value to the men. The cordial is a valuable donation to the stores of the Com-

mission especially during the summer and fall; and receives the strongest commendation from the Surgeon in charge of our hospital and his assistants.

WM. M. ROBINSON.

### A Peach.

ANDOVER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY.

I never dreamed that so much good could be accomplished by such simple means. A basket of peaches would give joy to a hundred wounded men. I shall never forget the case of William C——, a Pennsylvania soldier, who had undergone amputation of the right thigh, and was suffering the utmost intensity of human anguish. He was sinking very rapidly, and had taken no nourishment for several days. When I first saw him, he seemed utterly hopeless of recovery. His wife had been summoned from home; but it was feared that he would die before it was possible for her to reach him. I took a nice peach from my basket; he brightened at the sight of it. I pared it for him, and put it in his mouth, bit by bit; and the look of gratitude which he gave me was ample reward for the whole six weeks' service. Next morning I went to his bedside, and said—"What can I do for you this morning?" With a smile he whispered, "Have you got another peach for me?" And so I repeated the operation of the previous morning. For a whole week he lingered along, with no other nourishment than his morning peach, and the thought that there was some one who cared for him. Meanwhile his wife arrived, and cheered his last hours with words of Christian hope. He fell asleep in Jesus.



"You've Touched my Heart."

Never was such a field presented for Christian labor. All seemed willing, and many anxious, to converse on religious subjects. I did not meet with a single rebuff during the whole term of my service. Often the mere mention of the subject of personal religion would cause deep emotion.

I remember particularly a veteran soldier, whose three years had nearly expired, and who had been terribly wounded in the right knee. He was a Scotchman, and had been a wild and reckless young man. After a cheerful chat of ten or fifteen minutes, I asked him—"Are you a Christian man?" He made no reply at first, but a tear started in each eye, and he was soon weeping and sobbing like a child, covering his face with his hands. At length he said, punctuating his sentences with sobs—"I've been a soldier almost three years, and have never shed a tear before, in all my hardships and sufferings. You might cut me to pieces with knives, and not draw a tear; but you've touched my heart, and I can't help it."

He made me a promise never to drink another drop of liquor, and became from that day a seeker after Jesus.

Yours, respectfully,

FRANK H. SNOW.

Rev. W. E. Boardman.

Colored Schools.

I also held an evening school among the colored young men, teamsters in the Commissary Department. I found great anxiety to learn to read almost universal among

them. If an evening school on a large scale could be opened among them, great good could be accomplished, as there are probably between two and three thousand colored persons at or near City Point.

S. S. SUTTON,  
Brighton, Michigan.

### The Dying Soldier's Prayer.

The prayers of David, the son of Jesse, were ended with the petition, "Let the whole earth be filled with his glory." The soldiers of David's army are not all dead yet. One went home last week, uttering a similar prayer.

"Corporal Henry C. Smith died at Carver Hospital, July 20, 1864. He belonged to the 8th Michigan Regiment. He had his left arm amputated above the elbow, and was not naturally of the firmest health. He always greeted me with a smile, and spoke earnestly and heartily on religion; said he was willing God's will should be done in him. A few hour's before his death he sent for Chaplain Parkes to come and pray with him. Mr. Parkes conversed with him, and then prayed with him. Then Smith prayed. After offering a petition to God for his own welfare, he prayed for President Lincoln, for the country, and that the cause of crushing the rebellion might be advanced and benefitted by his death."

Yours, &c.

SAMUEL G. HALEY,  
East Andover, N. H.

## Christian Commission in Arkansas.

### Daily Prayer-Meeting.

The rooms of the Christian Commission were opened in Little Rock Arkansas, on the first of February, 1864. A pleasant and commodious place having been procured in a conspicuous part of the city, we unfurled the "banner," and commenced sounding the "Gospel Trumpet." For spiritual growth and Divine guidance in our mission of love, a daily prayer-meeting was immediately appointed as a proper and successful means. And here let me remark, that wherever the Commission has been established, the first act was to dedicate the spot to Almighty God, and earnestly seek his favour and direction. To accomplish proper and desirable results we must use proper and appointed means.

### Rooms.

The building we have obtained is a large two-story dwelling-house, situated on the south-west corner of Main and Mulberry streets, which had just been leased to the Western Sanitary Commission, but, through the kindness of its agent, G. W. Wyeth, we were made welcome to one-half of it, and thus united under the same roof the two "Sisters of Charity."

The locality is the best in the city for our business. But the condition of the rooms previous to being occupied by the Commission, was anything but inviting; resembling indeed a secesh boarding-house more than a dwelling for "white folks." But choosing appropriate tools, and "taking off the coat and rolling up the sleeves,"

we began to seek out the boundary lines of the floor, and then to make visible and satisfactory explorations of the walls.

Having obtained some idea of the dimensions of the rooms, we erected two large book-cases for Testaments, "soldiers' books," hymn-books, tracts, &c.; obtained another large black-walnut one for a library, and arranged suitable shelves for religious papers, and literary magazines of miscellaneous reading. Ample accommodations were also made for writing, and two long file-desks put up for the leading secular and religious newspapers.

But the object of the Christian Commission and its actual workings in other Departments, being almost entirely unknown to the greater portion of the army of this Department, it required much perseverance as well as patience, to get established and to procure the respect and encouragement of those with whom we have to do. But with the help of the "Good Master," whose cause it is, we at first secured the favor of the commanding General, and a lively and growing interest soon became manifest. At first, soldiers would come in, rather hesitatingly, to inspect and to inquire the prices of things, and saying among themselves "that they allowed" it to be a sutler's shop or some "shebang" following the army to keep "greenbacks from moulding." But a knowledge of the Commission at once commanded respect, and the growing interest may be seen by the following report.

#### Work.

Average number that visited the rooms, daily, for the following five months: February, twenty; March, forty-

five; April, ninety; May, one hundred and seventy-five; June, one hundred and forty. Average number that attended the daily prayer-meeting: February, seven; March, twelve; April, eighteen; May, fifty; June, forty-five. Reading matter distributed at this and the other military posts, viz: Fort Smith, Pine Bluff, and Duvall's Bluff, during the first five months: Soldiers' books, 6,786; Testaments, 4,581; hymn-books, 2,713; magazines, 662; library-books, 440; papers, 69,771; pages of tracts, 229,528, the sum total distributed in June, being twelve times that of February. And, besides, we have distributed a large number of Charts, Almanacs, Silent Comforters, Green Pastures, Words of Life, Words for the Heart. &c., to hospitals, and Spelling-books, Bible-readers, copy-books, &c., to colored regiments. We have also issued to hospitals, shirts, sheets, pillow-slips, drawers, handkerchiefs and towels, and have put into the hands of the soldiers, when needy, many luxuries, consisting of dried, pickled and canned fruits, condensed beef, and milk, wines, cordials, jellies, jams, &c., &c. We have, during the time, held one hundred and eighty religious meetings, besides many short services at hospitals, and on funeral occasions; we have furnished stationery for the hospitals, and very many times have set down by the bedside of the sick and wounded, written out their requests and sent them to their dear ones at home; talked with them of Jesus, and, if dying, commended them to Him in prayer, and forwarded the sad news to their families, all of which has brought many a smile as well as tear, and many an earnest "God bless you, and them that sent you."

### Asleep in Jesus.

Oh, could you have stood with me, the other morning, by the bedside of that dying soldier, who had sent for me to spend with him his last earthly moments, and heard him say, looking up so affectionately, "O, my brother, will you sing to me that hymn that you sung the other day to my dying comrade, beginning

"Asleep in Jesus, blessed sleep!

From which none ever wake to weep' "?

and then heard those grateful expressions, and seen that dying smile, you would have gone home saying, let us double our diligence. And he is but one of the many who have been comforted and made to rejoice through your Christian sympathy and benevolence. Blessed cause. Let it not suffer at home, and we who are in the field will faithfully watch and labor.

C. C. THAYER, Local Agent.

### The Soldier's Motive.

The character of our soldiers is hardly appreciated by our citizens. Ambition, the desire of glory, the restlessness of youth, revenge for injuries received from the barbarous slave powers and their minions, are believed to contribute their share towards the armies of our heroes, no less than a pure, patriotic love of country.

The following letter will dispel this illusion. We lately heard it read at the meeting of the New York Central Branch of the United States Christian Commission, in the presence of the writer's townsmen, in Utica. Every eye was moistened. It was written the day before



the writer received his mortal wound. He now sleeps in Jesus.

FORT BAKER, October 20, 1864.

DEAR LOTTIE—I found a small white envelope among the others that you put into my box before I came away from home, and I knew that Lottie put it there, because she wanted me to write to her. Well, it always does us good to please those that love us; and I am glad to think that my little girl would be pleased to have me write to her. It is a pleasant task for me; and the thought of good, loving children at home, who think of me every day—who for my sake are trying to be good to their mother, and make her happy, is a source of comfort, encouragement, and of consolation, that I cannot describe with my pen, nor tell with my tongue. How far this thought goes, or how much it contributes to reconcile me to the separation that, for their sakes, I have voluntarily endured, you can never realize until like circumstances call forth like feelings; and I earnestly pray that this may never be. I know that you do not now realize that I am here because I love you, and that you do not appreciate the necessity of my being here. But by-and-by, when you grow up, you will understand things better; and when you read in history, of this war, and of its causes and objects, you will be glad that your father left home when you were a little girl, and went forth to contend for the right. You will love me all the more then, and so will all the rest of my children. This is the thought that encourages and consoles me; and then, beside this, the consciousness of none other than good and pure motives—and, above all, the consolation, from

day to day, that religion affords me—all contribute to make me happy, even while the constant longing, lingering anxiety about my home and family, keeps them every moment in my thoughts.

Try and be good, Lottie, if you love me, and want to do what you can to make me happy. Be good to your mother and grandmother, and brothers and sisters. Try to be good to the Lord, and then you will be happy yourself, and everybody will love you; and if I should never see you again on earth, we shall meet in heaven. I pray for you many times every day, and I want you to pray for yourself and me. Try to learn in your books; go to school, and Sunday-school always, when you can. Save this letter until you get old. Tell Harry I will write to him before long; and Freddy, that I mean to send him some pretty stones I have picked up for him. Kiss all the family for me, from grandma to the baby, and love them all. God bless you.

FATHER.

#### Writing Home.

The gratitude of surviving relatives for the letters and ministrations of the delegates, cannot easily be expressed. From a pile of letters of acknowledgments before us, we take, almost at random, the two following, as illustrations.

ROLLING PRAIRIE, Laporte Co.,

Indiana, Dec. 2d, 1864.

George H. Stuart.

MY DEAR BROTHER—I had charge of the General Field Hospital, Chattanooga, Tennessee. I was sent for in haste to visit a noble young man in Ward D. As

soon as he saw me, he said, "Chaplain, I am going to die, and be lost, unless something is done for me soon," and asked me to talk and pray with him. After the services with him were over, I exhorted the inhabitants of the tent to prepare for the solemn change, before reason was gone. He asked me to return in two hours. I did so; but, O what a change. He met me with a smile. Said he, "Chaplain, it's all right now. I am the Lord's, and he is mine. I am now prepared to go whenever it is the Lord's will; but pray again, and sing for me." I did so, with different feelings than before, and sung

"Sweet rivers of redeeming love  
Lie just before my eyes,  
Had I the pinions of a dove,  
I'd to those rivers rise." &c.

He praised God, though nearly gone. He passed off triumphantly, in about one hour and a half more.

Very truly yours,

JOHN E. NEWHOUSE.

IPSWICH, Mass., July 8, 1864.

Mr. John E. Newhouse,

DEAR SIR—We return to you our sincere thanks for the letter we received from you this morning.

It gives us great comfort to know that the Lord Jesus was with our son during his last hours; that He stood by him, and led him gently through the valley of the shadow of death. A comfort to us, also, while we are mourning our loss so bitterly, that we may meet him on the other side.

For his sake we thank you for speaking with him, for

singing with him; it must have done him so much good. Yes, he was a good boy. We all know it. No mother ever had a son more faithful than he—but this is for our country. God grant we may soon have peace, crowned with victory, which will put an end to these sad tidings that every new day now brings to us.

Yours very respectfully.

NEW GLARCY, June 19, 1864.

Rev. John T. Baird.

DEAR SIR:—It is with the greatest pleasure I acknowledge the receipt of a letter penned by you, for my poor weak and wounded son, but, to express my thanks and gratitude to you for so much kindness, will be impossible. I will, together with my wife, bear in mind to our graves, your angel act towards my boy, and for the few words of consolation administered to myself. I pray God will reward you for so much kindness, and if your family should in the providence of God need an act of humanity, it may be exuberantly bestowed.

I have two sons in the army. Leonard is the oldest, Charles belongs to the 5th Wisconsin Battery. I suppose my poor wounded boy has told you all about that, it will therefore, be needless for me to repeat. I received a letter from him the same day I heard from Leonard through you, and thank God he came out without being hurt. At the time of his penning that letter, he knew nothing of his brother being wounded; he says in his letter, "I seen the 22d Regiment, but did not see Leonard." I presume he knows it, by this time.

I have two good sons, and thank God for the gift. But I read that the Eternal God had an only Son, "a well-beloved Son," whom he delivered up to suffer the greatest indignity possible, and then die the ignominious death of the cross. Jesus' friends all deserted him. Not so with my son, God was with him and sent friends to administer to his wants." Surely these are mercies and should call forth our humble thanks. We repeat the words of the Son of God, and say with our whole heart "Thy will be done," having the promise of God, that all things will work out for good, to them that love Him, and keep his commandments.

I have faith to believe in all God's promises. I also believe that a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, that the hairs of our head are all numbered, that nothing can escape God's notice. All my hope is in Him concerning this war, and that we will be victorious at last. My unseen, I cannot say unknown, friend, you have been the good Samaritan to my poor boy in his time of need. What has been done for him has been done to me. But I am afraid I am tedious, I could not help it, you will forgive. God's blessing rest upon you and yours, while I remain

Very respectfully yours.

#### **The Army a Fast Place.**

There is a large class of the soldiers who have been professors of religion at home, but have lost the lustre of their hope, with the loss of home privileges. Many and many a time I have heard the remark—"I had a hope, but the army is a poor place to brighten it." And

among these men is one of the greatest works of the Commission. It carries personal sympathy to each Christian, and thus brings Christians together in sympathy among themselves. Soldiers rarely sympathize together in their religious feelings, without some one to take the lead; and this is just what the Christian Commission does. And this is the reason why laborers here find more encouragement than at home. Their presence and influence satisfies a want that nothing else reaches; and, too, the progress of Christians is more manifest than at home, where these outside influences are less rare. The army is a *fast* place. Soldiers morally travel the upward road, or the downward road—whichever they may have chosen—much faster than their friends at home. And as vice is spontaneous, while virtue needs culture, the work of the Christian Commission cannot be too widely spread, or too closely followed up. This is the testimony of officers, high and low, who, without exception, treated us with marked respect.

EDWARD P. WILD,  
(Of Bangor Seminary) Brookfield, Vt.

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## Army of the Shenandoah.

### The Wounded.

Most of the time of my service acted as agent for the Commission, at Martinsburg, W. Va. Labored among the sick and wounded, as they were brought in from the front. They usually arrived there in the evening, after riding all day over the rough pike, in the common army wagons. We met them at the wagons, assisted in getting

them into the churches used as hospitals, and then supplied them with hot tea or coffee, and food; assisted in dressing their wounds, &c.

As they were kept here but for a short time, until they could be put upon the cars to be sent further east, no good accommodations had been prepared for them—not even arrangements to supply them promptly with rations—and a delegate could feel, as he labored, that he was really doing something to save suffering.

Many of them told us that they thought they could not have lived without our attention. We also assisted in fixing them comfortably on the cars, and either furnishing them with food, or seeing that the Government officers did so. Never have I seen such immediate results from my efforts to do good,

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## Brooklyn and Long Island.

The Brooklyn and Long Island Christian Commission was organized in March, 1864. Our object is to interest all the Christian Churches and people of Brooklyn and Long Island in the most efficient coöperation practicable, with the United States Christian Commission and other Christian organizations, in supplying religious teachers and helpers, and religious and moral training to the army and navy, and to any others whom the events of the war may commit to our ministry.

### Six Months' Work.

Our first six months' work includes the sending to the front over a hundred delegates, who have carried con-



solation and instruction to thousands in the camp. They have taken up the wounded from the battle-field—dressed their wounds, given them drink and nourishment—spoken to them words of cheer, prayed with them, and directed them to the cross of Christ. They have sat down on the ground, and taken from their dying lips their last messages to transmit to their homes—have closed their eyes, and committed them, with prayers, to their last resting-place. No father or brother could have done more for them. The delegates have also held meetings for prayer and exhortation; and hundreds, we have reason to think, have been converted. The report of the good done can never be made out until the Judgment-day. Thousands of books, including Bibles, Testaments, and other valuable religious works, have been distributed. They have been most gratefully received, and, we doubt not, profitably perused.

#### **Navy Work.**

Having in charge the Brooklyn Navy Yard, where most of our Government Ships come and go—thus affording a vast field for Christian labor—we have distributed a large amount of reading matter, including volumes of great interest, to from thirty to fifty thousand seamen and officers.

#### **Our Constituency and Co-workers.**

Every church should bear a part in this blessed work. Their prayers and contributions are needed. Every Sunday-school also might do the same. Already many of them have entered upon the work. In the success of this great struggle, who are so much interested as our

children and youth? Let them show their interest in efforts to comfort and bless those who are sacrificing their lives to preserve to them the noblest inheritance of Earth.

#### Our Wants.

*We need Delegates.* Men of the right stamp; the working men of our churches; full of zeal; with tact and good common sense; ready to embark for six weeks, or more, in this most blessed but self denying work. They should come recommended by their pastors.

*We need Funds:* not only to use directly in our work, but to help forward the great cause, which the Central Commission at Philadelphia are prosecuting. Think of half a million of men in our Army and Navy, to be supplied with Christian influences! How large an outlay it must require!

*We need Comfort-Bags and Housewives.* These, in one sense, are a means of grace. They open the way to the heart's sympathies, and are a blessed preface to a higher ministration.

*We need books:* Religious books, of course; but others also: all kinds that are instructive, entertaining, and useful; such as History, Biography, Travels, and Tales of good moral tendency; in fact, just such kind of books as intelligent families are accustomed to place in their libraries. Illustrated papers and magazines, both weekly and monthly, are very much needed.

*We need the prayers of Christians.* In vain we labor to build the house, except God build it. That he will, in answer to prayer, we have no doubt. And hence we

ask the prayers of the good, that "our labor may not be in vain in the Lord."

## The Cincinnati Branch.

### Business of the Year.

At a meeting of the Cincinnati Branch of the U. S. Christian Commission, held on Tuesday evening at the residence of A. E. Chamberlain, Esq., Chairman, a report was presented showing the business of the last year, of which the following is a summary:

Cash received	\$48,044	23
Total expenditures	42,673	62
Stores donated and purchased	170,000	00

### SOLDIERS' READING.

Copies of Scriptures distributed	56,697
Soldiers' hymn-books	77,204
Knapsack books	451,747
Library books	21,260
Magazines and pamphlets	9,869
Religious papers	1,145,674
Secular papers	46,800
Pages of tracts	1,571,921
Reams of paper	1,633
Envelopes	289,375

The total business of the year amounts to over two hundred thousand dollars. To disburse this large amount has cost the Commission about one per cent. of the receipts, which is certainly a very economical management. The railroads have carried the delegates and

much of the freight free; the express and telegraph companies have also made very large contributions; thus enabling the Commission to devote its entire means almost to the soldiers. The Burnet House has entertained delegates free of charge from the commencement of the war—a very large contribution. The funds of the Commission are now low, and an earnest appeal is made to the public for help.

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## Colorado.

### Novel Contributions.

Mr. E. W. Sinclair, of Central City, *Colorado* Territory, sends scrip of Wyandott Lode, No. 4, value for \$500; and by the same mail we receive from Messrs. Hucks & Lambert, of San Francisco, an invoice of a hundred barrels of Axle Grease to lubricate the machinery of the Christian Commission.

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## THE THANKSGIVING COLLECTION.

Many churches have no service on thanksgiving; and some have time-honored local charities, which they could not well neglect. Will such congregations kindly remember our brave suffering soldiers and sailors, on the Sabbath after receiving this tract, and send their collections at once to the nearest branch of the Commission? See list on page 2 of cover.

# INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTION ABOUT SUPPLIES.

ALL good and suitable stores are welcomed, and all necessary freight and charges paid on them by the Commission, and are distributed by delegates of the Christian Commission personally.

**WHAT TO SEND.**—MONEY, by all means, if possible. We need funds to pay the expenses of our delegates and laborers in the field; for the purchase of books, tracts, papers, and for the purchase of delicacies and comforts *not* sent by your loving hearts, which are very necessary for distribution in the hospitals.

The Special Diet Kitchens, connected with the largest hospitals, now in successful operation, where delicacies and wholesome dishes are prepared for the sick soldier, with the same care and skill as at home, by the ladies employed in the Diet Kitchens by the Christian Commission, involve a large increase of labor and outlay of stores and funds. We appeal to the friends of the soldier at home, to meet this great, but necessary expense.

Cotton Shirts, Cotton Drawers, Canton Flannel Shirts and Drawers, Surgical Shirts and Drawers, (with tape strings to tie instead of seams at the sides,) Large Cotton Drawers, (to wear in doors as pants,) Dressing-Gowns, Slip-pers, (if of cloth or carpet, with thick soles,) Sheets, Pillow cases, Bed-ticks, (sing e, for filling with straw,) Pillows, Pads for fractured limbs, Ring-pas s for wounds, Fans, Netting to protect from flies, Housewives stored with needles, thread, buttons, pins, &c., Handkerchiefs, Wash-rags, Old Linen.

Oat-meal, Farina, Corn-starch, Dried Rusk, Jellies, Soda Biscuit, Butter Crackers, Boston Crackers, Pickles, Jams, Onions in barrels, Apples in barrels, Cranberries, Dried Fruits. Eggs are always needed. They should be carefully packed in boxes large enough to hold about 100 dozen, made with handles projecting from each end, made strong and packed FULL, well shaken down as they are packed, and sent by express. Good Black Tea, Chocolate, Lemons, Syrups. All preparations of the blackberry are of double value.

Good Brandy, Madeira Wine, Port Wine, Cordials. Domestic wines are excellent in winter, apt to spoil in summer.

STATIONERY IS MUCH NEEDED, paper, envelopes and pencils. Send the best Books, Magazines, Periodicals, Pictorials, and late newspapers.

**HOW TO PACK.**—Pack in boxes. Barrels are not as good. Secure well. Boxes should not be so large that two cannot conveniently lift them i to a wagon. Pack eatables by themselves. Never pack perishable articles, such as oranges, lemons, bread, cakes, nor jars of jellies and jams, with other goods. Bottles and Jars should, when possible, be packed in boxes by themselves, well filled with sawdust or straw. Never pack Clothing, or Dried Fruits and Berries, with goods that are liable to break and spill. Tin cans should be soldered; all other modes fail. Stone jars should be corked and firmly bound with oiled linen or leather over the cork, and packed closely in sawdust or hay, in boxes, never exceeding a dozen and a half in a box, and nailed strongly, to bear rough handling. Jellies in tumblers, covered with paper, and wines, cordials, &c, in bottles, with paper or other poor stoppers, are liable to spill out, and if packed with other things, sure to injure them.

**HOW TO MARK.**—Mark in plain letters and figures, with paint or ink on the boards—cards rub off. On one corner, the number of the box, according to the number sent by you in all, numbering your first box \*1, your second \*2, your third \*3, and so on from the first sent to the last. On another corner, mark each box, as from your Society, giving the name, and HAVE IT CONSPICUOUSLY ADDRESSED TO THE MOST CONVENIENT BRANCH OF THE U. S. CHRISTIAN COMMISSION, AS DIRECTED ON THE NEXT PAGE.

To secure acknowledgments, and to save trouble, also send an invoice or list by mail, on paper, the common letter sheet size, written only on one side, specifying each barrel or box by number, and giving the contents of each by itself. Give your own name and Post-office in full, with the name of your State. Place also another list or invoice of the same kind in the box, under the lid.

# United States Christian Commission.

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GEO. H. STUART, Esq., *Chairman.*

JOSEPH PATTERSON, Esq., *Treasurer.*

Rev. W. E. BOARDMAN, *Secretary.*

Rev. LEMUEL MOSS, *Secretary Home Organization.*

Rev. BERNICE D. AMES, *Secretary Field Organization.*

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*Send money to Joseph Patterson, Treasurer U. S. Christian Commission, Western Bank, Philadelphia.*

*Letters and stores to U. S. Christian Commission, 11 Bank Street, Philadelphia.*



# INFORMATION

FOR

## ARMY MEETINGS.

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In many places the fourth Sabbath evening of the month is devoted to a Union Monthly Concert of Prayer for the Army and Navy. The deepest interest has been excited by these meetings. It is humbly suggested to all who believe in the power of prayer, to form such meetings during the crisis of our nation's destiny. This tract is compiled with the view of affording information for these Army Meetings. Please circulate it.

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DECEMBER, 1864.



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JOSEPH PATTERSON, Esq., *Treasurer.*

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- FREDERICK, MD.**—Letters, money and supplies to Gideon Ban'z.
- HAGERSTOWN, MD.**—Letters, money and supplies to Rev. J. Evans.
- HARTFORD.** *Connecticut Branch*—Letters to Rev. H. Powers; money to A. G. Hammond, Exchange Bank; supplies to Rooms of Ladies' soldiers' Aid Society, 87 Asylum Street.
- HARRISBURG, PA.**—Letters, money and supplies to Rev. T. H. Robinson.
- INDIANAPOLIS, IND.**—Letters to C. N. Todd; money to James M. Ray; supplies to G. W. Clippinger.
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- MILWAUKEE, WIS.**—Letters to D. W. Perkins; money to John A. Dutcher; stores to Walter S. Carter, care Dutcher, Ball & Goodrich, 143 E. Water St.
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- PEORIA, ILL.**—Money to Theo. Higbee; letters and supplies to Wm. Reynolds, Rooms 10 South Adams street (up stairs).
- PITTSBURG, PA.**—Letters to Robert C. Totten; money to Wm. Frew (of Jaa. McCully & Co.), 172 Wood St.; stores to Wm. P. Weyman, 76 Smithfield St.
- PORTLAND, ME.**—Letters and supplies to Thomas R. Hayes, 110 Middle St.; money to Cyrus Sturdivant, 90 Commercial Street.
- PORTLAND, OREGON.**—W. S. Ladd, Treasurer; of firm of Ladd & Tilton. Letters to Rev. G. H. Atkinson.
- PROVIDENCE, R. I.**—Money to J. W. Vernon; letters and supplies to W. J. King.
- RICHMOND, N. Y.**—Letters, money and supplies to Oliver D. Grosvenor.
- SACRAMENTO, CAL.**—Letters to Rev. J. S. McDonald; money to Dr. R. H. McDonald; supplies to Rev. N. B. Peck.
- ST. LOUIS.**—Letters to J. H. Parsons; money to Edwin Ticknor; supplies to Isaac S. Smith, Christian Commission Office, under Lindell Hotel.
- ST. PAUL, MINN.**—Letters to H. M. Knox; money to D. D. Merrill; supplies to D. W. Ingersoll.
- SAN FRANCISCO.**—Letters to Rev. E. Thomas, 711 Mission Street; money to P. Sather, (Sather & Co.); supplies to J. B. Roberts, 215 California St.
- TROY, N. Y.**—Letters and money to F. P. Allen; supplies to J. H. Willard.
- UTICA, N. Y.**—*Central New York Branch*—Money to R. S. Williams (Cashier Oneida Bank), Treasurer, 157 Genesee Street; letters and supplies to Rev. D. W. Bristol, D. D., Secretary and Agent, 32 Genesee Street.
- VIRGINIA, NEV.**—Letters and money to Rev. Franklin Rising.
- WASHINGTON, D. C.**—Letters, money and supplies to William Ballantyne, 498 Seventh Street; or Rev. J. J. Abbott, 500 H Street.
- WHEELING, W. V.**—Letters, money and supplies to R. Crangle.

# INFORMATION

FOR

## DECEMBER MEETINGS.

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### *The Gulf Department.*

THIS department and the whole line of seaboard from New York to Fort Vancouver, a range of 21,856 miles, with all our ships of war and foreign stations, is under the care of the New York Branch. The difficulty of extending the work of the Christian Commission along such an extent of territory, in such an unhealthy climate as the Gulf Coast, and with irregular means of transportation, could only have been surmounted by the energy, skill, and perseverance of the gentlemen who have taken it in charge. Holding the highest positions, civic, commercial, social, and literary, they have relinquished lucrative and honorable positions to endure the dangers of the sea and the hardships of the field, brave the miasma and yellow fever, and face at the less romantic but no less necessary drudgery of the office, to the year's end.

The work of the New York Branch during the year 1863 was chiefly in the supply of preaching and reading. A gentleman of leisure and high literary and religious attainments, devoted himself to the work of selecting and compiling soldiers' reading-matter; and it is believed

that the books and tracts furnished to the libraries and reading-rooms of the hospitals and ships of war by the New York Committee cannot be excelled. Tons of magazines and of the metropolitan papers are continually in process of shipment; and correspondence with chaplains, surgeons, and commanders is daily increasing the demand.

The Christly department, of relief for suffering humanity has, during the present year, assumed increasing proportions. The prevention of disease, by the circulation of tens of thousands of Manuals of Soldier's Health, and the distribution of hogsheads of Blackberry Syrup, has been of even greater benefit to our soldiers than the tons of fruit and the cases of clothing distributed to the sick and wounded, and the exchanged prisoners. The outlay of the New York Committee is increasing accordingly, and we doubt not that the princely generosity of the Great Metropolis will be fully adequate to all proper demands for the relief of our brave defenders.

The Brooklyn Branch is an independent organization, and is forwarding delegates, publications, and hospital stores, at a rate worthy of the third city of the Union.

The following letters to Hon. J. V. C. Smith, the Field Agent of the New York Branch, illustrate the work of its delegates..

MORGANZIA, October 26, 1864.

Hon. J. V. C. Smith:

DEAR SIR—The three barrels of reading and hospital stores you last sent, came in good time and order. I have now a supply for some days to come. The men

are busy scouting, preparing for winter quarters—with rumors of changes. The sanitary supplies\* go well. The tent is doing good service. Besides affording facilities for distribution, it is used for a Bible-class on Sabbath morning, preaching in the evening, and prayer-meeting each evening in the week—all of which are well attended. I have often wished you could be present in our meetings, and mark the spirit of devotion and good sense manifested. The meeting last evening was of great sweetness and power. One testified that he found the grace of God at Morganzia; another had been an ignorant Roman Catholic, but was brought marvellously to the experience of the gospel. I design to write, some day, on "Religion in the Army," as it has fallen under my own observation.

Rev. Mr. Watson spent two weeks with me; and by his ability and readiness to work, made a decidedly favorable impression, and left, much to the regret of all. I doubt not he will do excellent service at Baton Rouge. I hear also good reports from Rev. Mr. Whittier. Such men are an acquisition to the Commission. Unless we have great military changes, I shall need about the usual supply. I have the commencement of a good Circulating Library; please send me all the books you can spare, without doing injustice to others. There are German books in your reading-room; please send some of them. I do not get an adequate supply of German reading. Some regiments are largely composed of Germans—great readers.

The colored soldiers are anxious to learn, and must

\* The fruits, syrups, &c., sent by the Christian Commission.

have books adapted to their capacity. Writing material is in great demand. I would respectfully recommend, if you have none on hand, to buy some. It is hard for a soldier, who has not been paid for six months, not to be able to write his mother a letter, for want of a sheet of paper and envelopes. Many such are here.

In a word, hardly anything comes amiss, in an army like this.

Grateful for the promptness with which you have always sent supplies, I have the honor to be

Your obedient servant,

H. C. DUNHAM.

NEW ORLEANS, Oct. 31, 1864.

Dr. J. V. C. Smith, Agent,  
U. S. Christian Commission:

SIR—I have the honor to report my work for the months of September and October, as follows: During September the Sabbath services were kept up at the Military Prison, Naval Hospital, Wood's Press, and Soldier's Home, with occasional services on shipboard and at camps. Packages of reading were distributed at other prisons and depot of troops. Sixteen public religious services were held. The Prisoners' Commission has occupied a large part of my time. Many cases of interest come before us. Letters enclosed indicate the kind of work done.

The interest at the Soldier's Home and in our Reading-room has decreased, because of the small force of troops here, and greater strictness in keeping them in quarters. Only eighty-three visitors to the rooms are recorded; but quite a number of calls for books—thirty taken out.

I have received ninety letters, and written twenty-seven. During the month of October I was enabled to devote more time to the distribution of reading matter, as the Prisoners' Commission closed its labors, and turned over its business to the Provost Marshal General, on the 15th. The same Sabbath various labors were performed, the camps were supplied, and considerable time occupied in attending to business of the Depository.

#### **Revival.**

In several camps, religious meetings have been held. The Second Connecticut Battery is enjoying quite a revival. Several soldiers have recently professed conversion, at the Baptist church. A number of young soldiers have started there for heaven; and the prayer-meetings are growing in interest.

Another lot of our exchanged prisoners came in a few days ago from Tyler, Texas. It was pleasant to go among them, and give papers, Testaments, letter-paper, &c. Many of them were enfeebled by confinement and poor fare, and all were happy in being again under the old flag.

#### **The Buried Flag.**

This reminds me of a flag I saw in their camp. It was captured with them, but concealed by burial in the earth, and brought away in the lining of an officer's coat. This piece of bunting is highly valued by the brave men of the Forty-eighth Ohio.

#### **Intercession.**

During the month I was able to do some kindness at one time to the soldiers in jail, most of whom had, for a



disturbance, been shut up for ten days and nights within their cells. The trouble was caused by their being kept, on two occasions, for nearly twenty-four hours, without food. The Provost Marshal granted my request for their release from close confinement. At another time, on my representations, the Provost Marshal General released from close confinement some sixty prisoners, allowing them the air and light needful for health, and consistent with safety. I was also granted the pardon of several poor fellows, who appeared worthy of elemency—one a boy, sentenced to ten years' imprisonment, and who was so ill as not to be expected to live as many days, when released.

**Welcome Always.**

I have given out 69 packages of reading, being 7533 publications—of which number there were 205 Hymns, 186 Testaments, and 8 Bibles. My labors in the Prison, the Hospital, the Home, and camps, are full of encouragement. They are well received always; and in the course of a month, because of the shifting of troops, and changing of the men in prison and hospitals, many thousands are addressed—often for the first or last time—and supplied with something good to read. There is every reason to believe that God's rich blessing attends this work.

*October.*—Fifty-five visitors to Reading-room; twenty books taken; six names to Temperance pledge.

Very respectfully,

R. K. DIOSKY, *Delegate.*



## Army of the Shenandoah.

### The Happiest Hours of Life.

This work, of meeting trains and succoring wounded at Martinsburg, we have found hard for the body, being obliged, as we often have been, to continue it far into the night. At the same time we can truly say, it is a blessed work, truly Christ-like. And you often find where least you expect it, that you have been ministering to Christ in the person of his humble followers. "Is the Heavenly Friend near you to support and comfort you?" I asked a poor suffering man, who had just been brought into the church, with his leg amputated, and laid upon a hard bed of straw. "O, yes," said he, "he is with me, he is precious to me. He has been for many years, but never has he seemed so precious and so near as since I was wounded. All day and all night I lay upon the field, after I was struck and my leg fractured, but, strange as it may seem, they were the happiest hours of my life, made so by the Saviour's presenee." "What shall I write to your family?" "Tell my dear wife, I am happy, I am just where I would be, because I am just where God, in his providence, has brought me. I am willing to die or live, just as will best promote his glory." He was soon called to glorify God in his death.

### No Humbug.

We have not only had repeated opportunities of witnessing such triumphs of the power of faith and grace, but we have also witnessed the power of Christian kindness upon strong, hard men, and even upon Rebels. As we have ministered to their temporal wants, and ad-

dressed to them words of kindness, we have often seen tears start from eyes unaccustomed to weep, and have received the hearty "God bless you," "God bless the Christian Commission." "This is what I call living Christianity." "This is the religion for me." "I can't stand this," said a rough, hard-looking soldier, who was badly wounded in the foot, but able to hobble along on crutches, "I can't stand this, boys, it overcomes me, I give in," and, as he spoke and hobbled toward us, his whole frame shook with inward emotion, and the big tears fell from his sunburnt face, which he struggled in vain to keep back and hide from his comrades, "you know," he continued, "I am no coward, I can face the enemy, and not wink, but this kindness kills me, it breaks me all to pieces. I have heard all about these men, delegates of the Christian Commission; my wife has written me about them, and the society which sends them forth, and the work they do, and do it all for nothing, and find themselves. I tell you, boys, this is no humbug. It is a big thing. It is the gospel for body and soul, just what we all need;" and so he went on with a truly eloquent speech, of some minutes, and closed by wishing a thousand blessings upon us and the Christian Commission.

P. B. THAYER, *Garland, Me.*

#### The Revival.

CAMP PAROLE, ANNAPOLIS, Md.

October 20, 1864.

G. S. Griffith, Esq., Chairman Maryland Com. Christ'n Com'n.

DEAR BROTHER—The good work of God has not yet ceased, though about one hundred and fifty, if not nearly

two hundred persons have been converted and recovered from backsliding—thirty-five of them having been baptized, nearly one-half of them by immersion—one hundred and sixty-five have joined our Soldiers' Christian Association since September 6th, and Christians, converts, and reclaimed, have for the most part grown wonderfully in grace, holy joy, and usefulness. The latter, according to David in Psalm li. 12th and 13th, "Return unto me the joy of thy salvation, and uphold me with thy free spirit; then will I teach transgressors thy way, and sinners shall be converted unto thee."

O how these Christian soldiers have prayed and wrought for Christ; I hardly ever witnessed more fervent, effectual prayers—they availed much with God. It would sometimes seem almost as if heaven would be taken by violence. Some of them have been very faithful in personal effort with sinners and backsliders, and oh, how many of the latter there are in the army. Older Christians and young converts have been successful in bringing out the impenitent and wandering to our evening meetings. It would do your heart good now, more than when you and Dr. Schaff, of New York, were here the 6th inst., to hear the Christians reclaimed and converts pray and talk in our meetings.

A growth in grace, holy joy and power with God is manifest to all those who have been there for weeks. The remark was made the other day that converts and recovered sinners were scarcely ever known to have stood better and to have ripened in experience more rapidly and extensively than those of this soldiers' camp. Last evening quite a number spoke, in the hearing

of Rev. Mr. Gilbert, General Agent of the American Bible Society, and of the Christian Commission, who was surprised and delighted with what he saw and heard. This evening some seventy-five persons arose to manifest their purpose to pray and labor yet more than they have done hitherto, for the continuance and greater power of this work of God, as they believe God has no thought of stopping it, so they have no idea of being weary in this well-doing. O how I do love these brethren of Jesus and rejoice in my labors here. I am in my element. Bless the Lord that I was sent here. Thanks to you for favoring me with this position. Some few incidents may interest you. At a meeting a young man arose and said, "That only two hours before he came to the meeting he used profane language; convicted in this meeting, he gave himself up to God, and seemed to have the peace of pardon." Others said, "that their sins were forgiven at the meeting mentioned." Another soldier said at a meeting: "Last night, after all were in bed and still, I, burdened for sinners, knelt down alone to pray for them—my soul went up in agonizing prayer to God. A sinner came along hearing cries as of those in distress, and first with an oath, asked the cause of a man lying down there. He soon learned. I talked with him about his soul—he dropped on his knees by my side, and with tears, begged me to pray for him, and promised to attend to the salvation of his soul." This beloved brother, Vice-President of the Soldiers' Christian Association, now gone from us, and in a hospital in Baltimore, was an efficient worker, as well as a man of prevalence in prayer; we are sorry to lose such. O how they do regret to

leave Camp Parole. Said a converted backslider, "I do regret to leave this camp and these meetings. Here I was reclaimed. I left home a wicked man, though in early life for three years in the enjoyment of religion, as I then supposed. I have a pious praying wife, and long to see her, and make her glad by the change God has wrought in me; but I am sorry to leave these meetings, and to leave you, Mr. Colton. I remember the pleasant look with which you first accosted me in my quarters. I remember the instructions since received; I am perfectly happy in God now. O how much to be thankful for. How can I leave?" This and more he said, as he took his leave the other night, with tears. He spoke both publicly and to me at the close of the meeting. O, Mr. Griffith, my heart is enlarged; when shall I stop? I have many more like records in my note-book. Enough now; more another time.

Yours in the Lord,

ERASTUS COLTON,

Agent U. S. Christian Commission, Camp Parole.

## Army of the Potomac.

### The Revival at Camp Distribution.

At this Camp the preaching the blessed Gospel has had, and is having, a gloriously telling effect upon the hearts of the soldiers. I have seen scores, and on one occasion nearly a hundred, rise at once, requesting an interest in the prayers of God's people. Nearly every day souls were born into the kingdom of Jesus. I have seen from fifteen to twenty at a time bowing at our altars and crying for mercy. Nor were they feeble and inaudible cries, but like the publican, "God be merciful to me a sinner," "Lord save me;" thus evincing a degree of earnestness which led us to believe that the work was not superficial, but one that went to the depths of the soul. And what was still more convincing in this regard, I have heard them, after having found the Saviour, testify from their own experience that Christ *had* power on earth to forgive sin.

### A Protracted Meeting.

At an experience meeting, a soldier in speaking of the protracted efforts the Commission was putting forth for the salvation of those in arms said, "This is the longest protracted meeting I ever attended in my life. I have been in this camp ten weeks, and I have not missed a single meeting, I wish it would continue always, and it would be my blessed privilege to go from these meetings to a glorious meeting in heaven." Another soldier, one to whom I had the privilege of presenting the truth of

God, and of inviting him to accept of salvation in Jesus Christ while a sinner, said: "One week ago I came into this camp a wild, wicked, hardened sinner. I came into the meeting on Sunday evening, and I was invited forward for prayer, I did not heed the invitation. The next evening I went again, and was again invited, I accepted the invitation, prostrated myself at the altar, and there God for Christ sake forgave me my sins."

Your delegate, in submitting the above statistical statement of his work while in the service of your Commission, has to add his testimony to that delivered by hundreds of others, to the great field for the effecting of temporal and spiritual benefit to the soldier open to the Christian Commission, and to the good which, under God's blessing, its agents have been enabled to achieve. Very noticeable, too, is the welcome given in every tent to the delegate, the respectful and thankful attention with which his ministrations—whether of counsel, warning or reproof—are received; the gratitude evoked by even the smallest office of kindness, and the entire confidence reposed in every one who wears the Commission's badge.

#### **Ears to Hear.**

I think I may say that, during a ministry of fourteen years, I have never labored where there was so earnest attention to spiritual truth, and so seemingly earnest a desire to profit by it, as in that City Point hospital.

REV. J. GORDON CARNAHAN.

#### **The Power of the Spirit of God.**

While at Camp Distribution my work was devoted wholly to the welfare of the soul. Our meetings there



were attended with great interest. Our chapel, capable of seating about one thousand men, was often filled to the utmost of its capacity. The Spirit of God was present with us, and at the close of the sermon sometimes as many as fifty would rise for prayers. We usually followed the preaching service with a prayer-meeting, inviting the inquiring ones to come forward for religious conversation and prayer. Not unfrequently twenty-five of these brave men would come forward, and in tears acknowledge their sinfulness, while they sought to cast themselves on the mercy of Christ. The power of the Almighty was felt. The gracious Spirit was doing His work.

#### **The Soldiers Praying for us.**

Our prayer-meetings were among the most interesting of my life. Such earnestness, and such devotedness, and such strong faith, we seldom see manifested at home. I have never heard such prayers offered for loved ones and for churches at home as these soldiers offer. A husband prays for an absent wife and children; a young lad prays in such child-like faith and confidence for a mother and sisters at home, that you almost feel that you yourself have never prayed at all. These are earnest men.

#### **Prayer with a Soul in it.**

They have seen suffering and endured hardship, and mellowed down by the severities of war they speak what they feel. Their language has a soul in it, and it finds a soul in the hearer, unless he has encased it in a cage of steel.

### Love to the Brethren.

The apostle says, "by this shall ye know that ye have passed from death unto life, because ye love the brethren," and I have never seen a livelier test of this than a colored soldier gave at the close of one of our evening meetings. There was a simplicity in his expression which touched all our hearts, and he closed his remarks by saying, in a most impressive manner, "I love my Saviour, I love the Church of Christ, I love the world, I love everybody, I love them that don't love me." And he sat down. I felt that that poor son of Africa had reached the climax in Christian experience. Like the martyred Stephen, and his Saviour before him, he loved his enemies, and he could pray for his masters who had despitefully used him.

### Swift to Hear.

One of the most gratifying features of the army is the readiness with which they receive religious instruction. The demand for Christian laborers is vastly greater than the supply. The Macedonian cry from the adjacent forts reached our ears, "Come over and help us." And though some of our delegates preached as many as four times on the Sabbath, still we could not satisfy the demand.

### Rich Experience for Ministers.

No minister can have a richer experience than the army affords, and none probably can find a field of greater usefulness. The church which sends out its pastor will receive a blessing for it, and if he carries a warm heart, filled with the Spirit of Christ, he may be

the means of a rejoicing in camp which shall cause joy in heaven.

M. L. SEVERANCE,  
Boscawen, N. H.

### The Revival in the 18th Corps.

Another feature, and to my mind the most important one in results, is the public means of grace. Last Sunday night, upward of fifteen men arose and signified their desire to flee the wrath to come, and be saved from their sins. We held one of the most interesting prayer-meetings last Saturday evening that I ever attended. There was a sweet and heavenly influence resting down upon the assembly, and we could say with Peter, "Lord, it is good for us to be here."

### Report of M. S. Wells, Delegate

Many have been converted in the 18th Army Corps, of late, and are going forth rejoicing in the Lord. And now as the 10th Army Corps has taken the place of the 18th, the same blessed influences continue, and we shall look for the continuation of the same blessed results.

Our distribution of reading matter among the sick wards has a salutary benefit. Men read, and forget their aches and pains, and thus avoid low-spiritedness—they are less discontented. In short, it is a decided sanitary department, for which we have a very comfortable supply as we need them.

I am, Sir, very happy and contented in my work, and hope to render myself both useful to the soldier and the Commission that has committed such a trust to my hands.

But I must close. There is a very healthy state of things in the various departments of the Commission here, and we expect to find the records at last show a glorious harvest of souls for the Redeemer. May the blessing of our Lord Jesus Christ be upon the United States Christian Commission is my humble prayer.

Respectfully yours,

M. S. WELLS.

#### For Ministers.

I have nothing to report which differs essentially from the many reports which I have read of Delegates of the Christian Commission. The work exceeded in power to interest my whole spiritual nature, any experience of my life. My work commenced the day before I received my commission, at Boston, while on the cars to and from the city, and did not cease until I delivered a soldier boy to his mother, in my town, five minutes before reaching my home. He is on furlough.

The *fulness* of the work is truly wonderful. On every hand, in every hour of the day, travelling or sitting, there is abundant opportunity to bless soldiers; and the fulness of the blessing flows back into one's own heart.

My people were greatly benefitted by my absence; and if they had not been, I think I have been enough better man for going, to make it policy for them to send me again.

Truly yours,

E. DOUGASS,

Bridgewater, Mass.

## Special Diet Kitchen Bill of Fare.

Soup—Mutton,	Pudding—Bread,
Beef,	Rice,
Chicken,	Tapioca,
Fish—Cod,	Corn Starch,
Meats,	Farina,
Chickens,	Blanc Mange,
Baked Apples,	Custard—Boiled,
Potatoes—Roast,	Baked,
Bread and Butter,	Fruits,
Corn Bread,	Jellies,
Biscuit,	Jams,
Toast—Dry,	Preserves,
Butter,	Tea,
Milk,	Cocoa,
Eggs—Boiled,	Gruel,
Poached,	Tomatoes.

## Blackberry Cordial.

Again as I passed the rounds with the blackberry cordial and heard such expressions as these: "Not any more, Chaplain, your medicine has cured my diarrhœa, I should never have got well without it. God bless the Christian Commission." "O Chaplain, give me some of that medicine, I have heard of it at the front as good for me, by those who have been cured by it," and then the hearty "thank you." I am fully persuaded that this branch of the work is of great value to the men. The cordial is a valuable donation to the stores of the Com-

mission especially during the summer and fall; and receives the strongest commendation from the Surgeon in charge of our hospital and his assistants.

WM. M. ROBINSON.

### A Peach.

ANDOVER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY.

I never dreamed that so much good could be accomplished by such simple means. A basket of peaches would give joy to a hundred wounded men. I shall never forget the case of William C——, a Pennsylvania soldier, who had undergone amputation of the right thigh, and was suffering the utmost intensity of human anguish. He was sinking very rapidly, and had taken no nourishment for several days. When I first saw him, he seemed utterly hopeless of recovery. His wife had been summoned from home; but it was feared that he would die before it was possible for her to reach him. I took a nice peach from my basket; he brightened at the sight of it. I pared it for him, and put it in his mouth, bit by bit; and the look of gratitude, which he gave me was ample reward for the whole six weeks' service. Next morning I went to his bedside, and said—"What can I do for you this morning?" With a smile he whispered, "Have you got another peach for me?" And so I repeated the operation of the previous morning. For a whole week he lingered along, with no other nourishment than his morning peach, and the thought that there was some one who cared for him. Meanwhile his wife arrived, and cheered his last hours with words of Christian hope. He fell asleep in Jesus.

**"You've Touched my Heart."**

Never was such a field presented for Christian labor. All seemed willing, and many anxious, to converse on religious subjects. I did not meet with a single rebuff during the whole term of my service. Often the mere mention of the subject of personal religion would cause deep emotion.

I remember particularly a veteran soldier, whose three years had nearly expired, and who had been terribly wounded in the right knee. He was a Scotchman, and had been a wild and reckless young man. After a cheerful chat of ten or fifteen minutes, I asked him—"Are you a Christian man?" He made no reply at first, but a tear started in each eye, and he was soon weeping and sobbing like a child, covering his face with his hands. At length he said, punctuating his sentences with sobs—"I've been a soldier almost three years, and have never shed a tear before, in all my hardships and sufferings. You might cut me to pieces with knives, and not draw a tear; but you've touched my heart, and I can't help it."

He made me a promise never to drink another drop of liquor, and became from that day a seeker after Jesus.

Yours, respectfully,

FRANK H. SNOW.

Rev. W. E. Boardman.

**Colored Schools.**

I also held an evening school among the colored young men, teamsters in the Commissary Department. I found great anxiety to learn to read almost universal among



them. If an evening school on a large scale could be opened among them, great good could be accomplished, as there are probably between two and three thousand colored persons at or near City Point.

S. S. SUTTON,  
Brighton, Michigan.

### The Dying Soldier's Prayer.

The prayers of David, the son of Jesse, were ended with the petition, "Let the whole earth be filled with his glory." The soldiers of David's army are not all dead yet. One went home last week, uttering a similar prayer.

"Corporal Henry C. Smith died at Carver Hospital, July 20, 1864. He belonged to the 8th Michigan Regiment. He had his left arm amputated above the elbow, and was not naturally of the firmest health. He always greeted me with a smile, and spoke earnestly and heartily on religion; said he was willing God's will should be done in him. A few hour's before his death he sent for Chaplain Parkes to come and pray with him. Mr. Parkes conversed with him, and then prayed with him. Then Smith prayed. After offering a petition to God for his own welfare, he prayed for President Lincoln, for the country, and that the cause of crushing the rebellion might be advanced and benefitted by his death."

Yours, &c.

SAMUEL G. HALEY,  
East Andover, N. H.

## Christian Commission in Arkansas.

### Daily Prayer-Meeting.

The rooms of the Christian Commission were opened in Little Rock Arkansas, on the first of February, 1864. A pleasant and commodious place having been procured in a conspicuous part of the city, we unfurled the "banner," and commenced sounding the "Gospel Trumpet." For spiritual growth and Divine guidance in our mission of love, a daily prayer-meeting was immediately appointed as a proper and successful means. And here let me remark, that wherever the Commission has been established, the first act was to dedicate the spot to Almighty God, and earnestly seek his favour and direction. To accomplish proper and desirable results we must use proper and appointed means.

### Rooms.

The building we have obtained is a large two-story dwelling-house, situated on the south-west corner of Main and Mulberry streets, which had just been leased to the Western Sanitary Commission, but, through the kindness of its agent, G. W. Wyeth, we were made welcome to one-half of it, and thus united under the same roof the two "Sisters of Charity."

The locality is the best in the city for our business. But the condition of the rooms previous to being occupied by the Commission, was anything but inviting; resembling indeed a secesh boarding-house more than a dwelling for "white folks." But choosing appropriate tools, and "taking off the coat and rolling up the sleeves,"

we began to seek out the boundary lines of the floor, and then to make visible and satisfactory explorations of the walls.

Having obtained some idea of the dimensions of the rooms, we erected two large book-cases for Testaments, "soldiers' books," hymn-books, tracts, &c.; obtained another large black-walnut one for a library, and arranged suitable shelves for religious papers, and literary magazines of miscellaneous reading. Ample accommodations were also made for writing, and two long file-desks put up for the leading secular and religious newspapers.

But the object of the Christian Commission and its actual workings in other Departments, being almost entirely unknown to the greater portion of the army of this Department, it required much perseverance as well as patience, to get established and to procure the respect and encouragement of those with whom we have to do. But with the help of the "Good Master," whose cause it is, we at first secured the favor of the commanding General, and a lively and growing interest soon became manifest. At first, soldiers would come in, rather hesitatingly, to inspect and to inquire the prices of things, and saying among themselves "that they allowed" it to be a sutler's shop or some "shebang" following the army to keep "greenbacks from moulding." But a knowledge of the Commission at once commanded respect, and the growing interest may be seen by the following report.

#### Work.

Average number that visited the rooms, daily, for the following five months: February, twenty; March, forty-

five; April, ninety; May, one hundred and seventy-five; June, one hundred and forty. Average number that attended the daily prayer-meeting: February, seven; March, twelve; April, eighteen; May, fifty; June, forty-five. Reading matter distributed at this and the other military posts, viz: Fort Smith, Pine Bluff, and Duvall's Bluff, during the first five months: Soldiers' books, 6,786; Testaments, 4,581; hymn-books, 2,713; magazines, 662; library-books, 440; papers, 69,771; pages of tracts, 229,528, the sum total distributed in June, being twelve times that of February. And, besides, we have distributed a large number of Charts, Almanacs, Silent Comforters, Green Pastures, Words of Life, Words for the Heart, &c., to hospitals, and Spelling-books, Bible-readers, copy-books, &c., to colored regiments. We have also issued to hospitals, shirts, sheets, pillow-slips, drawers, handkerchiefs and towels, and have put into the hands of the soldiers, when needy, many luxuries, consisting of dried, pickled and canned fruits, condensed beef, and milk, wines, cordials, jellies, jams, &c., &c. We have, during the time, held one hundred and eighty religious meetings, besides many short services at hospitals, and on funeral occasions; we have furnished stationery for the hospitals, and very many times have set down by the bedside of the sick and wounded, written out their requests and sent them to their dear ones at home; talked with them of Jesus, and, if dying, commended them to Him in prayer, and forwarded the sad news to their families, all of which has brought many a smile as well as tear, and many an earnest "God bless you, and them that sent you."

**Asleep in Jesus.**

Oh, could you have stood with me, the other morning, by the bedside of that dying soldier, who had sent for me to spend with him his last earthly moments, and heard him say, looking up so affectionately, "O, my brother, will you sing to me that hymn that you sung the other day to my dying comrade, beginning

"Asleep in Jesus, blessed sleep!  
From which none ever wake to weep'?"

and then heard those grateful expressions, and seen that dying smile, you would have gone home saying, let us double our diligence. And he is but one of the many who have been comforted and made to rejoice through your Christian sympathy and benevolence. Blessed cause. Let it not suffer at home, and we who are in the field will faithfully watch and labor.

C. C. THAYER, Local Agent.

**The Soldier's Motive.**

The character of our soldiers is hardly appreciated by our citizens. Ambition, the desire of glory, the restlessness of youth, revenge for injuries received from the barbarous slave powers and their minions, are believed to contribute their share towards the armies of our heroes, no less than a pure, patriotic love of country.

The following letter will dispel this illusion. We lately heard it read at the meeting of the New York Central Branch of the United States Christian Commission, in the presence of the writer's townsmen, in Utica. Every eye was moistened. It was written the day before

the writer received his mortal wound. He now sleeps in Jesus.

FORT BAKER, October 20, 1864.

DEAR LOTTIE—I found a small white envelope among the others that you put into my box before I came away from home, and I knew that Lottie put it there, because she wanted me to write to her. Well, it always does us good to please those that love us; and I am glad to think that my little girl would be pleased to have me write to her. It is a pleasant task for me; and the thought of good, loving children at home, who think of me every day—who for my sake are trying to be good to their mother, and make her happy, is a source of comfort, encouragement, and of consolation, that I cannot describe with my pen, nor tell with my tongue. How far this thought goes, or how much it contributes to reconcile me to the separation that, for their sakes, I have voluntarily endured, you can never realize until like circumstances call forth like feelings; and I earnestly pray that this may never be. I know that you do not now realize that I am here because I love you, and that you do not appreciate the necessity of my being here. But by-and-by, when you grow up, you will understand things better; and when you read in history, of this war, and of its causes and objects, you will be glad that your father left home when you were a little girl, and went forth to contend for the right. You will love me all the more then, and so will all the rest of my children. This is the thought that encourages and consoles me; and then, beside this, the consciousness of none other than good and pure motives—and, above all, the consolation, from

day to day, that religion affords me—all contribute to make me happy, even while the constant longing, lingering anxiety about my home and family, keeps them every moment in my thoughts.

Try and be good, Lottie, if you love me, and want to do what you can to make me happy. . Be good to your mother and grandmother, and brothers and sisters. Try to be good to the Lord, and then you will be happy yourself, and everybody will love you; and if I should never see you again on earth, we shall meet in heaven. I pray for you many times every day, and I want you to pray for yourself and me. Try to learn in your books; go to school, and Sunday-school always, when you can. Save this letter until you get old. Tell Harry I will write to him before long; and Freddy, that I mean to send him some pretty stones I have picked up for him. Kiss all the family for me, from grandma to the baby, and love them all. God bless you.

FATHER.

#### Writing Home.

The gratitude of surviving relatives for the letters and ministrations of the delegates, cannot easily be expressed. From a pile of letters of acknowledgments before us, we take, almost at random, the two following, as illustrations.

ROLLING PRAIRIE, Laporte Co.,  
Indiana, Dec. 2d, 1864.

George H. Stuart.

MY DEAR BROTHER—I had charge of the General Field Hospital, Chattanooga, Tennessee. I was sent for in haste to visit a noble young man in Ward D. As



soon as he saw me, he said, "Chaplain, I am going to die, and be lost, unless something is done for me soon," and asked me to talk and pray with him. After the services with him were over, I exhorted the inhabitants of the tent to prepare for the solemn change, before reason was gone. He asked me to return in two hours. I did so; but, O what a change. He met me with a smile. Said he, "Chaplain, it's all right now. I am the Lord's, and he is mine. I am now prepared to go whenever it is the Lord's will; but pray again, and sing for me." I did so, with different feelings than before, and sung

"Sweet rivers of redeeming love  
Lie just before my eyes,  
Had I the pinions of a dove,  
I'd to those rivers rise." &c.

He praised God, though nearly gone. He passed off triumphantly, in about one hour and a half more.

Very truly yours,

JOHN E. NEWHOUSE.

Ipswich, Mass., July 8, 1864.

Mr. John E. Newhouse,

DEAR SIR—We return to you our sincere thanks for the letter we received from you this morning.

It gives us great comfort to know that the Lord Jesus was with our son during his last hours; that He stood by him, and led him gently through the valley of the shadow of death. A comfort to us, also, while we are mourning our loss so bitterly, that we may meet him on the other side.

For his sake we thank you for speaking with him, for

singing with him; it must have done him so much good. Yes, he was a good boy. We all know it. No mother ever had a son more faithful than he—but this is for our country. God grant we may soon have peace, crowned with victory, which will put an end to these sad tidings that every new day now brings to us.

Yours very respectfully.

NEW GLARCY, June 19, 1864.

Rev. John T. Baird.

DEAR SIR:—It is with the greatest pleasure I acknowledge the receipt of a letter penned by you, for my poor weak and wounded son, but, to express my thanks and gratitude to you for so much kindness, will be impossible. I will, together with my wife, bear in mind to our graves, your angel act towards my boy, and for the few words of consolation administered to myself. I pray God will reward you for so much kindness, and if your family should in the providence of God need an act of humanity, it may be exuberantly bestowed.

I have two sons in the army. Leonard is the oldest, Charles belongs to the 5th Wisconsin Battery. I suppose my poor wounded boy has told you all about that, it will therefore, be needless for me to repeat. I received a letter from him the same day I heard from Leonard through you, and thank God he came out without being hurt. At the time of his penning that letter, he knew nothing of his brother being wounded; he says in his letter, "I seen the 22d Regiment, but did not see Leonard." I presume he knows it, by this time.

I have two good sons, and thank God for the gift. But I read that the Eternal God had an only Son, "a well-beloved Son," whom he delivered up to suffer the greatest indignity possible, and then die the ignominious death of the cross. Jesus' friends all deserted him. Not so with my son, God was with him and sent friends to administer to his wants." Surely these are mercies and should call forth our humble thanks. We repeat the words of the Son of God, and say with our whole heart "Thy will be done," having the promise of God, that all things will work out for good, to them that love Him, and keep his commandments.

I have faith to believe in all God's promises. I also believe that a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, that the hairs of our head are all numbered, that nothing can escape God's notice. All my hope is in Him concerning this war, and that we will be victorious at last. My unseen, I cannot say unknown, friend, you have been the good Samaritan to my poor boy in his time of need. What has been done for him has been done to me. But I am afraid I am tedious, I could not help it, you will forgive. God's blessing rest upon you and yours, while I remain

Very respectfully yours.

#### **The Army a Fast Place.**

There is a large class of the soldiers who have been professors of religion at home, but have lost the lustre of their hope, with the loss of home privileges. Many and many a time I have heard the remark—"I had a hope, but the army is a poor place to brighten it." And

among these men is one of the greatest works of the Commission. It carries personal sympathy to each Christian, and thus brings Christians together in sympathy among themselves. Soldiers rarely sympathize together in their religious feelings, without some one to take the lead; and this is just what the Christian Commission does. And this is the reason why laborers here find more encouragement than at home. Their presence and influence satisfies a want that nothing else reaches; and, too, the progress of Christians is more manifest than at home, where these outside influences are less rare. The army is a *fast* place. Soldiers morally travel the upward road, or the downward road—whichever they may have chosen—much faster than their friends at home. And as vice is spontaneous, while virtue needs culture, the work of the Christian Commission cannot be too widely spread, or too closely followed up. This is the testimony of officers, high and low, who, without exception, treated us with marked respect.

EDWARD P. WILD,  
(Of Bangor Seminary) Brookfield, Vt.

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## Army of the Shenandoah.

### The Wounded.

Most of the time of my service acted as agent for the Commission, at Martinsburg, W. Va. Labored among the sick and wounded, as they were brought in from the front. They usually arrived there in the evening, after riding all day over the rough pike, in the common army wagons. We met them at the wagons, assisted in getting

them into the churches used as hospitals, and then supplied them with hot tea or coffee, and food; assisted in dressing their wounds, &c.

As they were kept here but for a short time, until they could be put upon the cars to be sent further east, no good accommodations had been prepared for them—not even arrangements to supply them promptly with rations—and a delegate could feel, as he labored, that he was really doing something to save suffering.

Many of them told us that they thought they could not have lived without our attention. We also assisted in fixing them comfortably on the cars, and either furnishing them with food, or seeing that the Government officers did so. Never have I seen such immediate results from my efforts to do good,

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## Brooklyn and Long Island.

The Brooklyn and Long Island Christian Commission was organized in March, 1864. Our object is to interest all the Christian Churches and people of Brooklyn and Long Island in the most efficient coöperation practicable, with the United States Christian Commission and other Christian organizations, in supplying religious teachers and helpers, and religious and moral training to the army and navy, and to any others whom the events of the war may commit to our ministry.

### Six Months' Work.

Our first six months' work includes the sending to the front over a hundred delegates, who have carried con-

solation and instruction to thousands in the camp. They have taken up the wounded from the battle-field—dressed their wounds, given them drink and nourishment—spoken to them words of cheer, prayed with them, and directed them to the cross of Christ. They have sat down on the ground, and taken from their dying lips their last messages to transmit to their homes—have closed their eyes, and committed them, with prayers, to their last resting-place. No father or brother could have done more for them. The delegates have also held meetings for prayer and exhortation; and hundreds, we have reason to think, have been converted. The report of the good done can never be made out until the Judgment-day. Thousands of books, including Bibles, Testaments, and other valuable religious works, have been distributed. They have been most gratefully received, and, we doubt not, profitably perused.

#### **Navy Work.**

Having in charge the Brooklyn Navy Yard, where most of our Government Ships come and go—thus affording a vast field for Christian labor—we have distributed a large amount of reading matter, including volumes of great interest, to from thirty to fifty thousand seamen and officers.

#### **Our Constituency and Co-workers.**

Every church should bear a part in this blessed work. Their prayers and contributions are needed. Every Sunday-school also might do the same. Already many of them have entered upon the work. In the success of this great struggle, who are so much interested as our

children and youth? Let them show their interest in efforts to comfort and bless those who are sacrificing their lives to preserve to them the noblest inheritance of Earth.

#### Our Wants.

*We need Delegates.* Men of the right stamp; the working men of our churches; full of zeal; with tact and good common sense; ready to embark for six weeks, or more, in this most blessed but self denying work. They should come recommended by their pastors.

*We need Funds:* not only to use directly in our work, but to help forward the great cause, which the Central Commission at Philadelphia are prosecuting. Think of half a million of men in our Army and Navy, to be supplied with Christian influences! How large an outlay it must require!

*We need Comfort-Bags and Housewives.* These, in one sense, are a means of grace. They open the way to the heart's sympathies, and are a blessed preface to a higher ministration.

*We need books:* Religious books, of course; but others also: all kinds that are instructive, entertaining, and useful; such as History, Biography, Travels, and Tales of good moral tendency; in fact, just such kind of books as intelligent families are accustomed to place in their libraries. Illustrated papers and magazines, both weekly and monthly, are very much needed.

*We need the prayers of Christians.* In vain we labor to build the house, except God build it. That he will, in answer to prayer, we have no doubt. And hence we



ask the prayers of the good, that "our labor may not be in vain in the Lord."

## The Cincinnati Branch.

### Business of the Year.

At a meeting of the Cincinnati Branch of the U. S. Christian Commission, held on Tuesday evening at the residence of A. E. Chamberlain, Esq., Chairman, a report was presented showing the business of the last year, of which the following is a summary:

Cash received . . . . .	\$48,044 23
Total expenditures . . . . .	42,673 62
Stores donated and purchased . . . . .	170,000 00

### SOLDIERS' READING.

Copies of Scriptures distributed . . . . .	56,697
Soldiers' hymn-books . . . . .	77,204
Knapsack books . . . . .	451,747
Library books . . . . .	21,260
Magazines and pamphlets . . . . .	9,869
Religious papers . . . . .	1,145,674
Secular papers . . . . .	46,800
Pages of tracts . . . . .	1,571,921
Reams of paper . . . . .	1,633
Envelopes . . . . .	289,375

The total business of the year amounts to over two hundred thousand dollars. To disburse this large amount has cost the Commission about one per cent. of the receipts, which is certainly a very economical management. The railroads have carried the delegates and

much of the freight free; the express and telegraph companies have also made very large contributions; thus enabling the Commission to devote its entire means almost to the soldiers. The Burnet House has entertained delegates free of charge from the commencement of the war—a very large contribution. The funds of the Commission are now low, and an earnest appeal is made to the public for help.

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## Colorado.

### Novel Contributions.

Mr. E. W. Sinclair, of Central City, *Colorado Territory*, sends scrip of Wyandott Lode, No. 4, value for \$500; and by the same mail we receive from Messrs. Hucks & Lambert, of San Francisco, an invoice of a hundred barrels of Axle Grease to lubricate the machinery of the Christian Commission.

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## THE THANKSGIVING COLLECTION.

Many churches have no service on thanksgiving; and some have time-honored local charities, which they could not well neglect. Will such congregations kindly remember our brave suffering soldiers and sailors, on the Sabbath after receiving this tract, and send their collections at once to the nearest branch of the Commission? See list on page 2 of cover.

## INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTION ABOUT SUPPLIES.

ALL good and suitable stores are welcomed, and all necessary freight and charges paid on them by the Commission, and are distributed by delegates of the Christian Commission personally.

**WHAT TO SEND.**—MONEY, by all means, if possible. We need funds to pay the expenses of our delegates and laborers in the field; for the purchase of books, tracts, papers, and for the purchase of delicacies and comforts *not* sent by your loving hearts, which are very necessary for distribution in the hospitals.

The Special Diet Kitchens, connected with the largest hospitals, now in successful operation, where delicacies and wholesome dishes are prepared for the sick soldier, with the same care and skill as at home, by the ladies employed in the Diet Kitchens by the Christian Commission, involve a large increase of labor and outlay of stores and funds. We appeal to the friends of the soldier at home, to meet this great, but necessary expense.

Cotton Shirts, Cotton Drawers, Canton Flannel Shirts and Drawers, Surgical Shirts and Drawers, (with tape strings to tie, instead of seams at the sides,) Large Cotton Drawers, (to wear in doors as pants,) Dressing-Gowns, Slippers, (if of cloth or carpet, with thick soles,) Sheets, Pillow cases, Bed-ticks, (sing e, for filling with straw,) Pillows, Pads for fractured limbs, Ring-pads for wounds, Fans, Netting to protect from flies, Housewives stored with needles, thread, buttons, pins, &c., Handkerchiefs, Wash-rags, Old Linen.

Oat-meal, Farina, Corn-starch, Dried Rusk, Jellies, Soda Biscuit, Butter Crackers, Boston Crackers, Pickles, Jams, Onions in barrels, Apples in barrels, Cranberries, Dried Fruits. Eggs are always needed. They should be carefully packed in boxes large enough to hold about 100 dozen, made with handles projecting from each end, made strong and packed FULL, well shaken down as they are packed, and sent by express. Good Black Tea, Chocolate, Lemons, Syrups. All preparations of the blackberry are of double value.

Good Brandy, Madeira Wine, Port Wine, Cordials. Domestic wines are excellent in winter, apt to spoil in summer.

STATIONERY IS MUCH NEEDED, paper, envelopes and pencils. Send the best Books, Magazines, Periodicals, Pictorials, and late newspapers.

**HOW TO PACK.**—Pack in boxes. Barrels are not as good. Secure well. Boxes should not be so large that two cannot conveniently lift them into a wagon. Pack eatables by themselves. Never pack perishable articles, such as oranges, lemons, bread, cakes, nor jars of jellies and jams, with other goods. Bottles and Jars should, when possible, be packed in boxes by themselves, well filled with saw dust or straw. Never pack Clothing, or Dried Fruits and Berries, with goods that are liable to break and spill. Tin cans should be soldered; all other modes fail. Stone jars should be corked and firmly bound with oiled linen or leather over the cork, and packed closely in saw dust or hay, in boxes, never exceeding a dozen and a half in a box, and nailed strongly, to bear rough handling. Jellies in tumblers, covered with paper, and wines, cordials, &c, in bottles, with paper or other poor stoppers, are liable to spill out, and if packed with other things, sure to injure them.

**HOW TO MARK.**—Mark in plain letters and figures, with paint or ink on the boards—cards rub off. On one corner, the number of the box, according to the number sent by you in all, numbering your first box \*1, your second \*2, your third \*3, and so on from the first sent to the last. On another corner, mark each box, as from your Society, giving the name, and HAVE IT CONSPICUOUSLY ADDRESSED TO THE MOST CONVENIENT BRANCH OF THE U. S. CHRISTIAN COMMISSION, AS DIRECTED ON THE NEXT PAGE.

To secure acknowledgments, and to save trouble, also send an invoice or list by mail, on paper, the common letter sheet size, written only on one side, specifying each barrel or box by number, and giving the contents of each by itself. Give your own name and Post-office in full, with the name of your State. Place also another list or invoice of the same kind in the box, under the lid.

# United States Christian Commission.

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GEO. H. STUART, Esq., *Chairman.*

JOSEPH PATTERSON, Esq., *Treasurer.*

Rev. W. E. BOARDMAN, *Secretary.*

Rev. LEMUEL MOSS, *Secretary Home Organization.*

Rev. BERNICE D. AMES, *Secretary Field Organization.*

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*Send money to Joseph Patterson, Treasurer U. S. Christian Commission, Western Bank, Philadelphia.*

*Letters and stores to U. S. Christian Commission, 11 Bank Street, Philadelphia.*

# INFORMATION

FOR

## ARMY MEETINGS.

In many places the fourth Sabbath evening of the month is devoted to a Union Monthly Concert of Prayer for the Army and Navy. The deepest interest has been excited by these meetings. It is humbly suggested to all who believe in the power of prayer, to form such meetings during the crisis of our nation's destiny. This tract is compiled with the view of affording information for these Army Meetings. Please circulate it.

JANUARY, 1865.



### Officers:

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JOSEPH PATTERSON, Esq., *Treasurer.*

Rev. W. E. BOARDMAN, *Secretary.*

Rev. LEMUEL MOSS, *Secretary Home Organization.*

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# COMMUNICATIONS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

May be sent to any of the following places, as may be most convenient.

- PHILADELPHIA.**—Letters to Rev. W. E. Boardman, Rev. Lemuel Moss, or Rev. Bernice D. Ames, 11 Bank Street; money to Joseph Patterson, at the Western Bank; stores to George H. Stuart, 11 Bank Street.
- ALBANY, N. Y.**—Supplies to Thos. W. Olcott; letters to Lovi Dodrick; money to Wm. McElroy.
- BALTIMORE.**—Letters to Rev. J. McJilton, D.D.; money to Rev. G. P. Hays; stores to G. S. Griffith, 89 & 91 West Baltimore Street.
- BANGOR, ME.**—Letters, money and supplies to T. G. Stickney.
- BOSTON.**—Letters to C. Demond, 91 Washington Street; money to Joseph Storey, 112 Tremont Street, stores to L. P. Rowland, Jr., Tremont Temple.
- BROOKLYN, L. I.**—Letters to Rev. J. B. Waterbury, D.D.; supplies to W. S. Griffith, and money to Samuel B. Caldwell. Rooms, 16 Court Street.
- BUFFALO, N. Y.**—Letters to Rev. S. Hunt; money to F. Gridley; supplies to J. D. Hill, M. D. Commission Rooms at 41 Pearl St.
- CHICAGO.**—Letters to B. F. Jacobs, P. O. Box 5801; money to John E. Farwell; supplies to Rooms Y. M. C. A., Methodist Church Block.
- CINCINNATI.**—Letters to Rev. J. F. Marlay; money and supplies to A. R. Chamberlain, 51 Vino Street.
- CLEVELAND, O.**—Letters to L. F. Mellen; money to S. H. Mather; supplies to Stillman Witt.
- DETROIT, MICH.**—Letters and money to C. F. Clarke, stores to E. C. Walker.
- FREDERICK, MD.**—Letters, money and supplies to Gideon Bantz.
- HAGERSTOWN, MD.**—Letters, money and supplies to Rev. J. Evans.
- HARTFORD: Connecticut Branch.**—Letters to Rev. H. Powers; money to A. G. Hammond, Exchange Bank; supplies to Rooms of Ladies' Soldiers' Aid Society, 87 Asylum Street.
- HARRISBURG, PA.**—Letters, money and supplies to Rev. T. H. Robinson.
- INDIANAPOLIS, IND.**—Letters to C. N. Todd; money to James M. Ray; supplies to G. W. Clippinger.
- LAMBERTVILLE, N. J.**—Supplies and money to J. A. Anderson; letters to C. Pierson.
- LOUISVILLE, KY.**—Letters, money and supplies to J. Edward Hardy, care of J. G. Dodgo & Co., 325 Main Street.
- MILWAUKEE, WIS.**—Letters to D. W. Perkins; money to John A. Dutcher; stores to Walter S. Carter, care Dutcher, Ball & Goodrich, 103 E. Water St.
- NEW YORK.**—Letters and supplies to Dr. N. Bishop; Rooms U. S. C. C., 30 Bible House; money to James M. Brown, 59 Wall Street.
- PEORIA, ILL.**—Money to Theo. Higbee; letters and supplies to Wm. Reynolds. Rooms 10 South Adams Street (up-stairs.)
- PITTSBURG, PA.**—Letters to Robert C. Totten; money to Wm. Frew, Jas. McCally & Co., 172 Wood St.; Stores to Wm. P. Weyman, 79 Smithfield St.
- PORTLAND, ME.**—Letters and supplies to Thomas R. Hayes; money to O. Sturdivant.
- PORTLAND, OREGON.**—W. S. Ladd, Treasurer; of firm of Ladd & Tilton. Letters to Rev. G. H. Atkinson.
- PROVIDENCE, R. I.**—Money to W. Vernon; letters and supplies to W. J. King.
- ROCHESTER, N. Y.**—Money and supplies to Oliver D. Grosvenor, 75 State St.
- SACRAMENTO, CAL.**—Letters to Rev. J. S. McDonald; money to Dr. R. H. McDonald; supplies to Rev. N. R. Peck.
- ST. LOUIS.**—Money to Edwin Ticknor; Letters and supplies to Rev. J. H. Parsons, Cor. Secretary Christian Commission Rooms under Lindeil Hotel.
- ST. PAUL'S, MINN.**—Letters to H. M. Knox; money to D. D. Merrill; supplies to D. W. Ingersoll.
- SAN FRANCISCO.**—Letters to Rev. E. Thomas, 711 Mission St., money to P. Sather, (Sather & Co.), supplies to J. B. Roberts, 215 California St.
- TROY, N. Y.**—Letters and money to F. P. Allen; supplies to J. H. Willard.
- UTICA, N. Y.**—Letters, money, and supplies to R. S. Williams, Treasurer Army Com. Y. M. C. A., Oneida Bank.
- VIRGINIA, NEV.**—Letters and money to Rev. Franklin Rising.
- WASHINGTON, D. C.**—Letters, money, and supplies to William Ballantyne, 498 Seventh Street, or Rev. J. J. Abbott, 500 H St.
- WHEELING, W. V.**—Letters, money and supplies to R. Crangle.

## INFORMATION

FOR

## JANUARY MEETINGS.

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### *Army of the Potomac.*

#### *An Officer's Appeal for the Gospel.*

SINCE the memorable message of Cornelius the Centurian to the Apostle Peter, we have seen nothing of the kind so noteworthy, as the following letter from an officer of high position in the regular army, at the head-quarters of the army of the Potomac. Whether we consider the position of the writer, the force of the arguments, the fervor of its spirit, or the novelty of a soldier pleading with ministers of Christ to give the gospel to the army, we must be deeply impressed by it. It was read to the Executive Committee of the Christian Commission on the day that a proposal to supply over two hundred chapel-tents, at a cost of \$123,000, was under consideration. We need scarcely say that the decision to supply them,



if the church would raise the means, was unanimous. Mr. Morris K. Jessup's plan of asking each church to buy a tent, to be inscribed with its name, was simultaneously, and without consultation, proposed and acted on by the Presbyterian church of Tuscarora, Pa., and the *Thompson Tuscarora Tabernacle* is now on its way to Nashville. Thus the Lord has been preparing soldiers to ask for, and the churches to give, the means of grace. Let every church send on speedily its camp chapel-tent and every town an able preacher for six weeks to occupy it.

#### The Christian Commission and its Work.

It has never been my pleasure to have the opportunity of listening to the claims of the United States Christian Commission, as presented by any of its agents. Almost constant field service during the war, has precluded the possibility of my becoming acquainted with the feelings of Christians North towards the Commission. How do you estimate the importance of its operation? If the results of its work have been communicated, very great interest must have been excited therein.

I fear, however, that the sympathy of the churches in the workings of the Commission, is not proportionate to the interest they may feel in the result of its labors.

#### Hard to get Preachers.

I am led to infer this from the fact, as I have learned, that it is very difficult to secure, *not money*, but the services of the right kind of preachers, for the most limited period prescribed by the regulations of the Commission.

What is the reason of this? One might inquire if it be from lack of patriotism; but, whenever I have been

North, I have found my Christian friends there especially anxious that this war should be fought out to the most bitter end. In every prayer-meeting I heard most earnest prayers offered for the efficiency of our armies—for the spiritual, as well as the temporal good of the soldier; especially for the sick and wounded of their number. Is not this patriotic? Is it not very kind that the soldier should be thus remembered? Then, look at the donations that are made to the Christian and Sanitary Commissions. Are they not magnificent specimens of beneficence? It would seem so. All these are certainly most commendable; and were the like done in behalf of any other cause, it would be marvellously virtuous.

#### Praying is Neither Fighting nor Preaching.

But, in this case, suppose all should pray for the country, make donations, and hope that the war would be vigorously prosecuted—and *do nothing more*. If that would do the work, how gladly would our brave soldiers do all this over and over again, in lieu of the terrible hardships and exposures of their present life, nor think themselves either patriotic or benevolent!

In order to maintain that great and holy struggle, it is necessary that a certain aggregate number of citizens shall be in the field, denying themselves of all that is desirable in life while they live, and ready in any moment to sacrifice that for which a man will give all that he hath.

#### Your Business.

It would be very difficult to select those who, more than some others, *ought* to make this sacrifice. My country is equally your country, and your country

is equally my country. The object for which we are fighting is equally dear to each, and is common to all. Every citizen owes, if need be, his life to his country. If, to avert from all a general danger, certain particular citizens nobly volunteer their services and their lives on the battle-field, would you call it benevolence, when some of the rest, who are to share equally the reward won by the heroic few, donate a few dollars to relieve the hardships of their brave defenders? Do they not *owe* every thing they have, even to their very lives, to those who are fighting their battles, though under no more obligation to do so than their fellow-citizens, who practically have not sacrificed *one* accustomed luxury for their country's good? Are not all citizens, and especially Christian citizens, not in the army, under the deepest obligations, demanded alike by common gratitude and justice, to contribute all that may be expedient to promote the benefit of those noble men who soon may lie heavily and cold on the bloody field, *for them?*

#### Can't Spare our Pastor.

And yet there are some very patriotic churches which "don't feel able to spare our pastor, to preach to the soldiers in the army, for more than two weeks at most;" although mean while good supplies might be obtained to preach quite as usefully at home. The cushioned seats would remain quite as soft, and the temperature of the building would be just as nicely regulated, as if the pastor preached in his accustomed place.

### No Prayer-Meeting for Three Years.

Not a week ago, I heard a Christian soldier state, in one of our camp prayer-meetings:—"I have been in the army three years, and this is the first privilege of this kind that I have enjoyed." All this time the brethren of his own church had not been deprived of a single service in consequence of the war. They had, indeed, prayed for their brethren in the army, but did not feel able to spare their pastor, to go and preach to their brethren in the army, though they were spiritually starving and dying in defence of the religious luxuries of those staying at home.

I am sure it is only necessary for the churches at home to get a correct view of the facts, to secure the most prompt and unreserved co-operation with the Commission in every particular.

### An Eye-Witness.

Having held official positions in the field, both East and West, which allowed of very extensive observation, and having never in any way been connected with the Commission, my opinions concerning it are perfectly independent: they are presented on my own responsibility, in the hope that they may help the churches to form a just appreciation of their duties and the privileges in connection with the work under consideration.

### An Open Door.

*The advantages which the army offers during the winter as a field of Christian labor are unparalleled.*

At vast expense, we send missionaries to preach the

gospel in China and India, where, before one idea can be communicated to the people, weary months must be spent in the study of the language. After this is partially acquired, through innumerable difficulties, the missionary succeeds in collecting perhaps an audience, here and there, of children, women, and men, of by no means the most intelligent class. The good work is one eminently of faith and patience. The city pastor has an audience alike composed of different classes and grades, of such variety, that on many subjects it is difficult to address more than a small percentage of the audience directly at the same time. Then there are many who are too young, and many others too old, to afford much probability of successful fruition of the seed, no matter how earnestly it may have been scattered.

All, whether young or old, and of every class, are more or less pre-occupied by the various occupations and excitements of city life, tending to preclude meditation on divine things.

#### A Selected Congregation.

If that pastor visit the army, as a delegate of the Christian Commission, he may go from one end of the line to the other, and throughout the entire army he will find but one style of audience; and that of the best possible class, in this—it *consists almost exclusively of young men*. They possess good average intelligence; are not pre-occupied; are not harassed by family cares; they are provided for; they have simply to obey orders when they come, and in the interim, have to endure so much wearisome monotony, that many, who would not take the trouble to attend church when at home, would now gladly listen to any thing or any body.

### Soldiers Think.

The soldier's life, though not favorable for reading, is very conducive to reflection. The drum beats, and he awakes, or gets his rations, or goes to bed, as the case may be, until it beats again. Without need for farther thought or care, he is (in winter-quarters) "as if he were a boy again." Their life is thus favorable both to attention and reflection. Of similar age, with common pursuits and dangers, they have common tastes and feelings. What is adapted to one, suits all.

### No Half-Full Meetings.

*The soldiers are willing to hear the truth.* I have never attended a meeting held by the Christian Commission that was only half full. As a rule, they are overflowing, even where they are held every evening in the week.

### No Stereotyped Meetings.

It seems impossible to have meetings conducted in the uniform style so common in the churches North. Always, after the first few meetings, a spirit of deep interest is awakened, taking on the character of what is termed a revival.

### Home and Sabbath-School.

This, I think, is attributable to the fact that the majority of our soldiers have once been under the influence of Sabbath-schools or Christian homes, so that the buried seed has only to be a little watered, and it springs up with a freshness that is truly reviving to witness. It matters not how profane and irreverent they may have become, with the soldier as with the sailor, the memories

of home and the Sabbath-school are very sacred, and even though nothing that is said may in itself interest them, there is always one certain clue; let something be said which shall awaken their early associations, and their feelings are immediately enlisted. They will never "go back," as they term it, on their "bringing up."

#### Death Real.

At home, should they be addressed on the uncertainty of life, youth and growing strength form a never-failing shield on which these admonitions are received; but here, touch that point ever so delicately, and every word brings up visions of dead comrades and hair-breadth escapes, to supersede any argument on that question. Death is to them as much a reality as life is.

#### Wants Something to Love.

The condition of the soldier exhibits an advantage for the reception of truth, like to that which grows out of bereavement. So long has he been absent from those he loves, he begins to think of them with those who were dead long ago; and as at midnight hour, beneath the silent stars, he keeps his lonely watch, he comes, more than other men, to feel the want of something to love. In this yearning mood, the soul is very apt to feel after God. Many facts have I met with of soldiers coming off picket much wiser and much happier than when they went on.

#### Will Have a God or an Idol.

How, then, is it we have been accustomed to consider the life of the soldier so conducive to profligacy? Because it is so. When the tide of feeling, rising in the



soldier's breast, is not taken at the flood by kind counsel and Christian sympathy, it bursts in scattered foam and dissipation. When reflection but starts accusing voices, its spell must be broken by loud oaths, the troubled spirit must be soothed by drink. Therefore is it most urgent efforts should be made to surround the soldier with every possible religious influence, seeing he is so easily saved from so much.

#### Fearful Corruption.

In the absence of these privileges, the men are, week after week, and perhaps month after month, lying crowded in winter quarters, the intolerable *ennui* relieved only by a mutual exchange of all the filthy garbage that the vilest may have scraped from the filthiest kennels of human depravity.

The fearful corruption thus engendered, is truly appalling, rendering the atmosphere too often totally fatal to the last spark of youthful virtue.

#### The Only Help.

*If the Christian Commission fail to do the work it contemplates, it will be left undone.*

#### No Chapel Tents.

During the winter it is impossible to have religious services in the open air. Yet there is not a tent in the Government service, to my knowledge, provided for this purpose.

#### A Revival at Every Chapel.

I cannot conceive of any thing in which a benevolent Christian can make such a good investment for Christ as

in the presentation of a chapel-tent to the army. I have never seen one in use any where, but it became not only the occasion of deep awakening, but also inevitably a centre round which, in various camps adjoining, a work of grace would commence.

Besides one or two at each Corps Hospital, there should be one for every Brigade in the army.

There is no other source, except the Commission, through which reading of any kind, except daily news, will reach the soldier. In no other way but by an organization of this kind, recognized by the churches and by the Government, can chapels, Christian laborers, and religious reading, be provided in any measure; as under no other circumstances could the necessary transportation, passes, and mail facilities be obtained.

#### Scarcity of Chaplains.

*Are there not Chaplains commissioned on purpose to do this work?* Yes, but with some of the regiments only. In the Fifth Corps, which, I suppose, is as well supplied as any in the army, there are to-day thirty-seven regiments which have *no* chaplain. Then, as in every other corps, there is a brigade of artillery, there are independent batteries, division field hospitals, ambulance trains, wagon trains, and all the various head-quarters, none of which are allowed chaplains at any time. For all this work there are only six delegates and two chapel tents. Besides, supposing there was a superfluity of chaplains, what could they do comparatively without chapels, books, tracts, etc.? In the Second Corps there are to-day thirty-eight regiments without chaplains, besides all these, the separate commands in it detailed above.

With this corps there are now but three working delegates. All the regular troops that have been in the army of the Potomac, with the exception of one regiment, have been totally without chaplains, even to bury their dead, *and within a hundred miles of Washington have been less cared for than the recognized heathen.* There is a base hospital near City Point for many thousand patients. Shall that be supplied with chaplains by transferring them from the few regiments which have them?

So far as the magnitude of the operations of the Commission are concerned, it would seem that the presence or absence of a few chaplains, more or less, should scarcely be taken into account.

*The delegate of the Christian Commission has many advantages.* \* \* \* \*

#### No Restrictions.

He is subject to no restrictions, except those made in the division of the labor by the Commission. If he is not well received in one place, he can walk a few steps farther on to another camp. A missionary in Pekin would meet with about as much limitation. He has no military orders to give, or to obey. He is understood to be working for the good of the soldier, not for pay; this is a free pass to the soldier's heart.

#### Neighborly.

He comes full of fresh enthusiasm, which is exceedingly refreshing and encouraging, especially to the sick soldier. It does him good to see the clean, smiling face of a civilian, and he likes to tell him of his many adventures, it seems so neighborly. Then comes the mutual

sympathy, followed by the gracious word, dropped into the open heart of the grateful soldier, who is made happier for the coming week by the friendly interview.

If the delegate happen to come from the same county as some of the men, they feel just like school-boys when visited by a relative from their distant home. The effect is more cheering than any grown-up people at home will understand.

#### We Want the Best.

*The kind of delegates most needed* are not good readers of sermons. The real, main work of the Commission must be done by steady, hard-working, faithful Christian men. The most desirable combination for a good delegate, would be a happy faculty of extemporaneous discourse, with cheerful conversational qualities. There are in the army a large number of officers and men of very high intelligence, who, prior to entering the service, were accustomed to the best pulpit talent in the country. For three or four years they have heard but a few occasional sermons, and would seem to receive new life, could they but hear once more the inspiring words of their old pastor.

#### Practise as Well as Preach.

Why cannot the *best men in the country* visit the army occasionally, and encourage the brave men in the performance of those duties they once urged them to undertake? Are they not deserving of it? Would our comfortable brethren at home be thus making a greater sacrifice for us, than we are making for them? It is very desirable that our Christian brethren, who are eager for young men to enter the army, should, as far as possible, share their burdens after they are in it, and thus in our

common cause manifest a common sympathy of Christian patriotism.

#### A Revived Minister and Church.

*The church which sends its pastor to the army as a delegate, will not lose any thing.*

The advantage is a mutual one. The change is often very beneficial to the health of the delegate. It opens to him a new world, enlarges his knowledge of men, of a thousand things which he failed before to comprehend, furnishes him with a new field for illustration, and quickens his zeal for the salvation of men.

#### Preaching to Men in their Grave Clothes.

He preaches over graves here, and he *feels* that men are mortal. He exhorts men daily to come here to die, and they sit before him in their grave-clothes.

#### Real Prayer-Meetings.

The prayer-meetings in the army are not tame, formal, weakly meetings; they are as real as life and death, for sincerity and earnestness. I can compare them only to the old Fulton street daily prayer-meetings during the great revival, and they must contribute to the benefit of the pastor as well as of the soldier.

The Holy Spirit seems to be secretly working in anticipation of the co-operation of God's servants. Both at City Point and nearer the front, sinners are coming to Christ, not like stray sheep, but as doves flocking to their windows.

#### Unprecedented Eagerness for Truth.

During the ensuing winter, the field will be fully available; it seems ripe for the harvest, and waiting only

for the church to thrust in the sickle. From what I have seen, I think there is a universal eagerness for religious truth in the army which is beyond all precedent. This is a work which demands no mean offering. It deserves not only the money of the church, but a liberal contribution of its best talent and of its most faithful pastors, as the demands of the Commission may require.

B. H., U. S. A.

*Head-quarters Army Potomac, Nov. 21, 1864.*

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### The Gulf Department.

PORT HUDSON, LA., }  
Nov. 23, 1864. }

DR. SMITH.—*Dear Sir:* I received from you, last Saturday, two barrels, two packages, and a cask of Christian Commission stores.

Glad, indeed, to get them, especially the clothing, which is just the thing needed here during this cold weather. I have but very little left of any kind. Socks are needed most. Please send more, as soon as you can. Forward to us all the socks you can spare. I am entirely out of diarrhoea medicine: please send us some of the blackberry cordial as soon as you can.

The cask of pickles I delivered to Dr. Davids, the post surgeon, just as I received them. He was very glad to get them; said they were next to potatoes for the scurvy, of which disease he had a number of cases. He said he should prescribe such a number of them to a patient daily as medicine. The books and papers you sent

me, are all needed here, and can be profitably distributed.

It is getting very cold in my room this weather. I have established weekly prayer-meetings here: we have one to-night. I am trying to do good by the blessing of God, and feel his presence with me. Help us by your prayers.

Please remember me to brothers Brown, Diosse and Horton, and tell them I wish to be remembered in their prayers.

Please send me some more of the U. S. Primers. I am all out, and they are daily calling for them; also, some Hymn-books for the Army and Navy. I have plenty of the Song Books.

From your most obedient servant,

TRUE WHITTIER.

### The Commission in Maine.

In March, 1864, the two counties of Sagadahoc and Lincoln were assigned by the U. S. Christian Commission to the Bath Army Committee, for them to canvass in behalf of that Commission. This Committee's field of labor having been enlarged, now embracing five counties, namely, Sagadahoc, Androscoggin, Kennebec, Lincoln, and Knox, they wish to present to the public the following statement of money and stores received and forwarded by them from May 1st to November 1st:—

Bath, cash,.....	\$1,638 06
“ 12 boxes stores.	
Wiscasset, cash.....	114 55



Richmond, cash.....	185 80
Dresden, " .....	31 15
"        2 boxes stores.	
Boothbay, cash.....	486 52
Southport, " .....	200 00
Winnegance, cash.....	106 00
"        1 box stores.	
Phippsburg, cash.....	175 88
"        1 box stores.	
Bowdoinham, cash.....	455 00
"        4 boxes stores.	
Bowdoin, cash .....	92 75
"        2 boxes stores.	
West Bath, cash.....	146 46
Woolwich, " .....	236 00
"        4 boxes stores.	
Durham Union Church, cash.....	5 00
"        "        "        1 box stores.	
Lewiston Factory, cash.....	18 35
Durham Congregational Church, cash.....	15 00
Sundry collections and friends, cash.....	31 76
<hr/>	
Total, cash.....	\$3,939 00
27 boxes stores, valued at.....	1,350 00
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Whole amount,.....	\$5,289 00

The work of the Christian Commission has been constantly increasing on the hands of the Executive Committee, so that, in their words, "It is estimated that we shall need at least a million dollars to carry us through the winter with our present large operations." The work in Maine has been thoroughly organized, and it is hoped

that the middle district, embracing the above-named counties, will not be backward in doing its part in the glorious work of providing comforts for the noble men who are fighting our battles for us.

Money and stores may be sent to either Charles Douglass or G. H. Palmer, Bath, and will be immediately forwarded to the army.

CHARLES DOUGLASS,  
A. F. BEARD,  
GERSHOM H. PALMER.

Army Com. for the Middle Dist. of Maine.

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## The Shenandoah Valley.

### Stations and Delegates U. S. C. C.

It is now two and a half months since I entered on my duties in this department, and they have been months of constant activity, and I believe, too, of important results for good. There was but one station in the Valley at that time—at Sandy Hook—and but three delegates—Revs. Woods, Curtis, and Brackett. At present we have stations at the following places: Sandy Hook, Harper's Ferry, Winchester, Martinsburg, Cumberland, one near Gen. Sheridan's headquarters, and one at Stephenson's Station, the present terminus of the Winchester Railroad. Several other stations will be established as soon as the army becomes more settled. Delegates have also been sent to Frederick, and one is about to go to Hagerstown, to assist Rev. J. Evans in the work at that point. During these two and a half months we have had seventy-five

delegates in the field, of whom about twenty-five are at present engaged. These have been noble men—Christian ministers and laymen—who came with a desire to benefit the bodies and souls of our soldiers. They have been men of piety and good works, who could prepare food for the hungry, wash, dress, and nurse the wounded, and who could at the same time pray with a dying man, and point him to the Great Physician.

### Angels' Visits.

The two points of greatest need during the campaign have been Winchester and Martinsburg: the former as the centre of our great hospitals, and the latter chiefly as the feeding station where the men stopped on their way to other hospitals, and where our delegates have labored night after night in feeding, washing and dressing, and in assisting the men into the ears. It deserves to be recorded of the loyal ladies of Winchester and Martinsburg that in this campaign they have proved their devotion to their country's cause by doing every thing in their power to alleviate the sufferings of those who have fallen in the country's battles. Early and late we have found them in the hospitals, hastening noiselessly from cot to cot, bearing the luxuries and delicacies of their own tables to nourish the weary sufferers, and with smiles and cheerful welcomes reviving many a drooping heart—women whose sole design is to aid them in caring for their men. Every thing is working smoothly, successfully, and harmoniously, and the blessing of God is accompanying and following our labors.

Praying that the richest blessings of Heaven may still rest upon you, and upon all your co-laborers, and begging

myself an interest in your prayers, and the prayers of all our friends, I remain,

Most truly yours,

J. R. MILLER.

### The Ladies of the Christian Commission.

#### Interesting Items.

At the Convention of Western Branches, of which a report appears on another page, Mrs. Wittenmyer was listened to with great interest while she detailed to some extent the *kitchen* work of the Commission. This auxiliary was adopted last January, and originated with Mrs. Wittenmyer, and since that time she has been laboring in that behalf. Army surgeons recognize it to be a fact that the cooking of hospitals is very deficient, and also that good diet is very essential to the comfort and recovery of the sick and wounded. At one time there were twenty-four of these kitchens in successful operation. They are more generally used in the army of the Cumberland than elsewhere, where they have been very efficient. The kitchens are supplemental to the hospitals, subordinate to the military authorities.

In the operations of the kitchen, there is, first, a general table for all those who are able to walk, who get full rations; and, secondly, a special diet kitchen for the very sick, where the fare is good enough for Abraham Lincoln and his cabinet. Soups, meats, delicacies, and every thing palatable for sick men, are gotten up in this department. The demand for potatoes and all kinds of vegetables is very great. These kitchens have an independent store-room, and the lady in charge carries the key, so that there is little fear of a misapplication of any supplies. These kitchens,

in addition to the good done by them to the physical wants of the soldiers, secure the presence of good, practical Christian women, which results in great good to the spiritual wants of the soldiers. The ladies write their letters, talk and sing to them, read the Bible, and minister in a thousand ways that women only know. Mrs. Wittenmyer has lately visited the army of the Cumberland, and made arrangements for extending these Commission kitchens in that military department. To give some idea of the work, she referred to the Cumberland hospital, at Nashville, where the kitchen is in charge of Miss Morehead. There were there at one time over eight hundred on special diet, for whom over twenty different dishes had to be prepared daily, and sometimes the number ran over eleven hundred. There are three thousand five hundred patients in the hospital most of the time, and one day, after all the other work, the ladies issued over five hundred arm-slings to poor mutilated soldiers after one of the battles. In addition to the work germane to the diet kitchen, it was often found necessary to work all night in preparing straps and bandages, which the women at home could do just as well, if they were only aroused to the necessity of their laboring. She hoped American women would renew their efforts for soldiers, and relieve their sisters in the field of such work as could be done in the rear. Contributions are needed of canned and dried fruits, all kinds of vegetables, and other articles useful in that department.

### Legacies.

Mr. Chamberlain, of Cincinnati, exhibited two notes, one a five dollar greenback, received from a dying soldier, accompanied with the simple words: "This is all I have to leave on earth. I want to give it to the best friend I have ever had—the Christian Commission." The other a two dollar note given by an old lady, with the remark that "This was all John had when he died; and, as the Christian Commission was instrumental in bringing him to Christ, I know he would want me to give it to that Commission, if he were alive."

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### TEXAS.

Mr. B. F. Jacobs, of Chicago, stated, at the Convention of Western Christian Commission Branches, in Indianapolis, last month, that in one brigade, in Texas, five hundred and fifty-seven men had joined the army church in five weeks.

### A Messenger of the Churches.

The heralds of salvation and messengers of mercy are painted with wings, to show their power of rapid movement. Many of the delegates of the Christian Commission seem to be in training for angelic honors. Rev. M. Hitchcock's report is a specimen of the labors of these messengers of mercy.

### Ten Days Neglected.

I reached Fredericksburg, in company with others, Thursday evening, May 19. We walked from Belle Plain,

carrying our luggage. Friday morning was assigned to duty in the 6th corps, 2d division, 2d ward, hospital B. Found here fifteen men. Occupied myself with two men of the worst,—one from Vermont and one from Massachusetts; had been wounded ten days, and not even the blood washed off their hands and faces since. Washed them, cut their hair and beard. Got some gruel from our rooms; and at noon all were removed, except the one for whom I had done the most; he had died. I felt that to be able to make him comfortable the last three hours of his life was a real privilege.

#### The Mill.

P. M.—Went to an old mill, just being filled up. It was two miles up the river, opposite Falmouth; contained about two hundred and sixty-five men. With others, I labored as hard as I could,—conscious, all the time, that men were suffering,—until Monday night. When this hospital was evacuated, I was one of the first at Fredericksburg. I did not get water to wash a single one's face, or time to write a letter, until Sabbath afternoon. I had two services that day, however.

#### Stimulus to Labor

Tuesday, A. M.—I repaired to the railroad station, where lay six hundred poor fellows on the ground, where they had been since midnight. Here I remained until Thursday noon, with scarcely any sleep or rest, coming to Washington, with the last load of wounded, in charge of the Christian Commission tent and remaining stores, where we arrived Friday noon. I think I never did more physical labor,—preaching the gospel and minister-



ing to the comfort of suffering men,—in any previous four weeks of my life.

### Freight of Wounded.

Monday, May 30, P. M.—The company, with twenty-six delegates, went on board a chartered steamer, drawn by a tug, with stores for White House. I was put in charge of all. Reached White House, after a pleasant passage, Wednesday afternoon. That night and the remainder of the week, taking care of men brought from the battle-field, and putting up tents. Saturday afternoon, was directed, by the medical director, with eleven others, to proceed to Washington, on board a steamer then leaving, with wounded men. I had the care of this company and four hundred and fifty wounded. There had been no suitable superintendence in having the steamer ready, with supplies, and the captain was most unsympathizing with regard to the wants of the poor suffering men. We delegates thought we had a hard time of it, being quite worn out when we arrived at Alexandria, Monday afternoon.

Tuesday, on board the mail steamer, I returned to White House, in charge of a company of delegates. From Wednesday afternoon until Saturday, had the superintendence of a cavalry corps. Saturday, went to Cold Harbor, walking a good share of the distance in the hot sun, which proved too much for me. The next day the army moved, starting for James River. The 18th corps went to the White House, where I was left, Monday morning, to go around with the supplies. But, being no better on Thursday, it was thought best I should go at once to Washington, *via* steamer to Baltimore. After

two days' rest, I was enough better to attend to duty. Two days I spent with a Massachusetts officer, Captain Alley, and was then put into the store-room 500 H Street, where I remained until the evening of July 5th, a period of fifteen days.

**Keeps one of his Church Members in his Place.**

Both at Fredericksburg and White House, and on the "Utica," my work was such as it was difficult to keep an account of. It was genuine hard work all of the time, and it wore upon me gradually until the time I was taken sick. But it was most delightful service. A member of my church is now at City Point, and I hope to keep one there until I can go again, or there be no more occasion for delegates.

Most truly yours,

M. H. HITCHCOCK.

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## **U. S. Christian Commission.**

**Convention of the Western Branches.**

Upon the call of the Secretary of the Home Organization, representatives of the various Western Branches of the U. S. Christian Commission met in Convention, in the city of Indianapolis, (in Wesley Chapel,) on Tuesday, November 29th, and continued in session three days.

Members were present as follows:

Central Office, Philadelphia.—Rev. W. E. Boardman, Corresponding Secretary; Rev. Lemuel Moss, Home Secretary.

Wheeling.—Rev. S. B. Barnitz.

Cineinnati.—Judge Bellamy Storer, A. E. Chamberlain, Rev. B. W. Chidlaw.

Cleveland.—Joseph Perkins, George Mygatt.

Milwaukee.—W. S. Carter, J. A. Dutcher.

Peoria.—Rev. W. E. M'Laren, George H. M'Ilvaine.

St. Louis.—Rev. S. Wells, J. H. Parsons, Isaac S. Smyth.

Chicago.—B. F. Jacobs, Rev. J. M. Strong.

Indianapolis.—Dr. Clippinger, James M. Ray, Rev. F. C. Holliday, J. T. Dunn, J. C. Hereth, C. N. Todd.

Louisville.—Isaac Russell.

Nashville.—Rev. J. C. Thomas.

Memphis.—K. A. Burnell.

Mrs. Annie Wittenmyer, being present, was invited to sit as a delegate.

The officers of the Convention were:

For President.—Hon. Bellamy Storer, of Cineinnati.

For Vice President.—Isaac S. Smyth, of St. Louis, Joseph Perkins, of Cleveland.

For Secretary.—G. H. M'Ilvaine.

The Principal Committees were:

Committee on Enrolment.—C. N. Todd, George H. M'Ilvaine, J. A. Dutcher.

Committee on Permanent Organization.—Isaac Russell, W. E. M'Laren, B. F. Jacobs.

Committee on Business.—A. E. Chamberlain, J. H. Parsons, Chaplain J. C. Thomas, W. S. Carter, Joseph Perkins.

The three days were fully occupied in discussions upon the whole work of the Commission, at home and in the field. Rarely has such a gathering been more strongly characterized by earnest attention to business and by a

spirit of Christian devotion and harmony. All felt that God had committed to them, as his stewards, the most important trusts, and that they were animated by common desires and aims. Interesting reports were made from the various home districts. Chaplain Thomas warmed all hearts by the details of his system of libraries for hospitals, &c. Mrs. Wittenmyer gave a full outline of the diet-kitchen work. Public meetings were held on Wednesday and Thursday evenings, which were largely attended.

We cannot give even a brief synopsis of the entire proceedings. Some of the more important points and resolutions are presented:

Mr. Chamberlain offered the following resolution, which had received the sanction of the Philadelphia office, which was adopted:

*Resolved*, That the experience of the U. S. Christian Commission has shown that its work can be most properly carried on by a conjunction of the distribution of religious reading matter and stores, and the personal ministrations of delegates; and that stores for the purpose should be under the immediate control and command of the Commission, and to this end we commend to the several Branches the collection of stores, with which to aid in supplying delegates for their work.

By the same gentleman, from the Business Committee, which was also adopted:

*Resolved*, That in the work of the United States Christian Commission, there is committed to our care a most sacred trust; and that it is our duty, as members of this Commission, to use every means to insure the direct application of all stores and funds so generously contributed, to the appropriate work of our commission, viz.: the care of the army and navy of the United States.

2d. That we individually, and as a commission, most cordially bid God speed to every organization at work for the good of our soldiers, refugees and freedmen.

The Convention endorsed the voluntary and economical conduct of the work, in the following:

*Resolved*, That in the work of organization and collections at home, for the supply of army work of the Christian Commission, the voluntary principle of an unpaid Agency should be strictly and sacredly adhered to; but that a permanent paid Agency may be and ought to be employed so far, and only so far as is necessary to direct, systematize, and render thorough, the unpaid services of returned delegates and others.

On the subject of thoroughly canvassing the country, and organizing in every community, the Business Committee reported the following, which were adopted:

That, in addition to the branch organizations, there should be formed in every locality, where it may be done to advantage, army committees to carry forward the work as auxiliaries to the Branch of the district embracing that locality.

That effort should be made every where to interest the ladies in this work, and to induce them, if not already associated together in some other soldiers' aid organization, to form Ladies' Christian Commissions, into which all the ladies should be gathered, and with them all the men, and the children, if possible, as members, that every individual, old and young, male and female, may have membership in the Commission and part in the work.

That, in this great work, the press should be fully employed in newspaper articles, and by circulars and pamphlets.

Respecting railroad, and other facilities, it was unanimously

*Resolved*, That our different Branches be instructed to exercise the severest fidelity, scrutiny and care, in regard to the railroad, express, steamboat and telegraph facilities so generously accorded to us.

Reference is made, elsewhere, to the subject of diet-kitchens.

The great question of chapels for the army was fully discussed, many facts of interest brought out, and the following resolution passed :

*Resolved*, That this Convention approve the building of field chapels and chapel roofs, and that the public be earnestly appealed to, to furnish all the means to build them.

Chaplain Thomas was accorded twenty minutes to explain the system of Christian Commission libraries in the army of the Cumberland. There are twenty libraries in the hospitals at Nashville, Chattanooga and Murfreesboro. Forty more are ordered, and will soon be there, supplying every permanent hospital in the country of which Nashville is the base. In the fifteen military departments of the army, there are about one hundred and fifty hospital Chaplains, and sixty-nine thousand three hundred men. An estimate of one hundred and twenty-five volumes to a library, with two men to one volume, would require four libraries to every thousand men. For the seventy thousand men it would require two hundred and eighty libraries. Sixty of these are already had, and twenty more can be made up from volumes already on hand. A great want of literature is felt in the army, wholesome, broad, stirring, deep secular reading, as well as of earnest religious books. The system of Commission libraries works well. From his experience, he knew that there were those in the army who needed sterling, standard reading. The point is to cater to every taste. The nearer you can bring home to the army, the more useful you are. Let the soldiers have the reading which will develop and enlighten, and such as they have been used to at home. The libraries are all suitable for 18mo, 16mo,

12mo, and 8vo volumes. A sample of these libraries was in the room.

The libraries are given to persons who, first, are capable, and, second, religious, who give receipts that the volumes shall be skilfully used and cared for. Registers are kept, and by whom the books are drawn, in what ward and bed, and by this means the volumes are kept and traced beyond a peradventure. The libraries cost fifty dollars, on an average, for one hundred and twenty-five volumes. The cases will admit of one hundred and eighty, but the average number is one hundred and twenty-five. Monthly reports are made of the number of times the book has been drawn, and any incident connected with the reading of the book is carefully noted, so that a history of each book is preserved. What a valuable and Christian record will this form when the necessity for them is passed away! These libraries are a part of the history of the war. The Chaplain detailed some of the experiences of the libraries, in the army of the Cumberland, for the year and a half in which he had been engaged in this work. He was listened to with deep attention, and certainly, we may add, that if there be any one branch of the work of the Christian Commission which should be sustained by the people at home, this matter of libraries addresses itself with peculiar and religious force.

Mrs. Wittenmeyer added her testimony in her hospital work to the importance and Christian usefulness of Chaplain Thomas and his system of libraries. Many hundreds of soldiers had she heard give "three cheers for Chaplain Thomas," or "God bless Chaplain Thomas." The effect of these libraries in breaking up card-playing, and



the frivolous amusements in the army, cannot be computed.

Upon this subject, the Business Committee reported the following resolutions, which were immediately adopted:

*Resolved*, That we cordially endorse the action of the Executive Committees in adopting the Magazine enterprise commenced in the Department of the Cumberland, and sincerely hope it may be vigorously carried out by all the field agents.

*Resolved*, That we heartily approve the introduction of the Loan Library system into the Department of the Cumberland, and urgently request its immediate extension throughout all the Military Departments.

*Resolved*, That we gratefully acknowledge the generous services of the publishers in supplying their publications at half price; those of Adams' Express Company in transporting them free; and particularly those of Gould & Lincoln, of Boston, Poe & Hitchcock, of Cincinnati, Scribner & Co., of New York, and Ashmead & Evans, of Philadelphia, in shipping the publications thus procured without pay.

It was a thrilling episode, when, in the midst of a discussion, Judge Storer read a dispatch from Nashville, stating that the enemy had been repulsed at Franklin, Tennessee, with the loss of six thousand men. This was acknowledged by the Convention singing:

“Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,”

and the offering of a fervent prayer for the brave and bleeding soldiers of the Republic, by Rev. Lemuel Moss. Rev. Shepherd Wells gave the Convention a sketch of the country in which the battle occurred, having had his home for eighteen years in the neighborhood.

The following stirring letter from General Fisk, received during the session, may properly close our report of the Convention. All who know him, know his hearty participation in our work.

HEAD-QUARTERS DISTRICT NORTH MISSOURI, }  
Macon, Mo., November 26, 1864. }

*Rev. Lemuel Moss, Secretary U. S. Christian Commission,  
Indianapolis, Ind.*

MY DEAR BROTHER: I am quite disappointed that my public duties imperatively demand my presence with my command, and therefore forbid me the pleasure I had anticipated in meeting yourself and others of our blessed Commission at Indianapolis, on the 29th instant. I am glad that you set this movement on foot, and that all the Western Committees will be well and earnestly represented. May God be with you, and direct your counsels in wisdom. The fields of our harvest are widening and whitening daily. Let our power for good be felt in every camp and fortress, in siege, fight, and hospital, on shore and sea. Rush on the work. The Christian public are with us. Did the people of God ever before have such an opportunity. May they wisely improve it in casting their abundance into the treasury of the Lord.

Yours, faithfully,  
for Liberty and Union,  
CLINTON B. FISK,  
Brigadier General U. S.

## Obituary.

Gov. Fairbanks.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the U. S. Christian Commission, held at the Central Office, No. 11 Bank street, Philadelphia, December 2d, 1864, the following minute, relative to the death of the late Gov. Fairbanks, was adopted and ordered to be published:

The Executive Committee have learned with deep regret of the death of the late Governor, Erastus Fairbanks, LL. D., member of the Commission for Vermont, which occurred at St. Johnsbury, on the 20th ult. He is the first member who has been called away by death. He was a successful business man, and, as a manufacturer, his name had become familiar even in foreign countries. His fellow citizens evinced their confidence in his capability and worth by repeatedly electing him their chief magistrate. During his last year of service in this position, his devoted love of country was exhibited in his efforts to prepare his gallant state for the heroic part she has performed in the present struggle for our nation's life. The manner in which he wielded the influence derived from his great wealth, ability, and high social position, is shown in the character of the community which has grown up around him, which has few rivals even in New England, for the comfort, thrift, intelligence and sobriety, which universally prevail. No intemperate person was employed in the extensive works over which he presided. He was a zealous friend of education, as well as of temperance, and was long a member of the corporation of the University of Vermont. All the great enterprises of the Church to bless and save men, such as the Bible, Tract, Sunday-school, Missionary and Sabbath Observance movements, found in him an enlightened advocate and liberal supporter. In short, he was a man whose death is an unspeakable loss alike to his family and friends, the Church, the nation and the world.

## INFORMATION & INSTRUCTION ABOUT SUPPLIES.

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ALL good and suitable stores are welcomed, and all necessary freight and charges paid on them by the Commission, and are distributed by delegates of the Christian Commission personally.

**WHAT TO SEND.**—MONEY, by all means, if possible. We need funds to pay the expenses of our delegates and laborers in the field; for the purchase of books, tracts, papers, and for the purchase of delicacies and comforts *not* sent by your loving hearts, which are very necessary for distribution in the hospitals.

The Special Diet Kitchens connected with the largest hospitals, now in successful operation, where delicacies and wholesome dishes are prepared for the sick soldier with the same care and skill as at home by the ladies employed in the Diet Kitchens by the Christian Commission, involve a large increase of labor and outlay of stores and funds. We appeal to the friends of the soldier at home, to meet this great, but necessary expense.

Cotton Shirts, Cotton Drawers, Canton Flannel Shirts and Drawers, Surgical Shirts and Drawers, (with tape strings to tie, instead of seams at the sides,) Large Cotton Drawers (to wear in-doors as pants,) Dressing-gowns, Slippers, (if of cloth or carpet, with thick soles,) Sheets, Pillow-cases, Bedticks (single, for filling with straw,) Pillows, Pads for fractured limbs, Ring-pads for wounds, Fans, Netting to protect from flies, Housewives, stored with needles, thread, buttons, pins, &c., Handkerchiefs, Wash-rags, Old Linen.

Oat-meal, Farina, Corn-starch, Dried Rusk, Jellies, Soda Biscuit, Butter Crackers, Boston Crackers, Pickles, Jams, Onions in Barrels, Apples in barrels, Cranberries, Dried Fruits. Eggs are always needed. They should be carefully packed in boxes large enough to hold about 100 dozen, made with handles projecting from each end, made strong and packed full, well shaken down as they are packed, and sent by express. Good Black Tea, Chocolate, Lemons, Syrups. All preparations of the blackberry are of double value.

Good Brandy, Madeira Wine, Port wine, Cordials. Domestic wines are excellent in winter, apt to spoil in summer.

**STATIONERY IS MUCH NEEDED**, paper, envelopes and pencils. Send the best Books, Magazines, Periodicals, Pictorials, and late newspapers.

**HOW TO PACK.**—Pack in boxes. Barrels are not as good. Secure well. Boxes should not be so large that two cannot conveniently lift them into a wagon. Pack eatables by themselves. Never pack perishable articles, such as oranges, lemons, bread, cakes, nor jars of jellies and jams, with other goods. Bottles and Jars should, when possible, be packed in boxes by themselves, well filled with saw-dust or straw. Never pack Clothing, or Dried Fruits and Berries, with goods that are liable to break and spill. Tin cans should be soldered; all other modes fail. Stone jars should be corked and firmly bound with oiled linen or leather over the cork, and packed closely in saw-dust or hay, in boxes, never exceeding a dozen and a half in a box, and nailed strongly, to bear rough handling. Jellies in tumblers, covered with paper, and wines, cordials, &c., in bottles, with paper or other poor stoppers, are liable to spill out, and if packed with other things, sure to injure them.

**HOW TO MARK.**—Mark in plain letters and figures, with paint or ink on the boards—cards rub off. On one corner, the number of the box according to the number sent by you in all, numbering your first box \*1, your second \*2, your third \*3, and so on from the first sent to the last. On another corner, mark each box, as from your Society, giving the name, and HAVE IT CONSPICUOUSLY ADDRESSED TO THE MOST CONVENIENT BRANCH OF THE U. S. CHRISTIAN COMMISSION, AS DIRECTED ON THE NEXT PAGE.

To secure acknowledgments, and to save trouble, also send an invoice or list by mail, on paper, the common letter sheet size, written only on one side, specifying each box or barrel by number, and giving the contents of each by itself. Give your own name and post-office in full, with the name of your State. Place also another list or invoice of the same kind in the box, under the lid.

# United States Christian Commission.

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